



NEAL THOMAS, JR.-CENTENNIAL POST 209

THE AMERICAN LEGION

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

Narrative History of
Neal Thomas, Jr.-Centennial Post No. 209
The American Legion
Colorado Springs, Colorado
For 2022 to 2023
By Post 209 Historian Kurt Skinner

Introduction

The Founding of America's Largest Veteran Service Organization

In the immediate aftermath of WWI, the United States Congress approved the 1919 charter of The American Legion (TAL) as a patriotic veterans' organization focused on serving the needs of servicemembers returning from the First World War, devoted to mutual helpfulness, "For God and Country." Membership in the organization rapidly increased to over one million, as local posts were established in communities across America. In its first decade, The American Legion was influential in advocating for the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau (later the Veterans Administration) and vigorously lobbied to help secure medical, disability, and vocational benefits for veterans and their families. During WWII, Past National Commander Harry Colmery drafted the "G.I. Bill of Rights," a blueprint for the 1944 Servicemen's Readjustment Act, which provided substantive vocational, educational, and housing benefits to millions of new veterans. Since its founding, The American Legion has actively supported the U.S. Constitution and promoted Americanism, advocated for a strong national preparedness, and sponsored youth leadership programs through its support of Boy Scouts of America, and the creation of American Legion Baseball, Boys State, Boys Nation, and National Oratorical programs. As The American Legion has grown to become the nation's largest veteran service organization, it has continued to support the four pillars of service and advocacy upon which it was founded: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth.

Colorado Springs – A Military Town

On the eve of WWII, the Colorado Springs Military Affairs Council lobbied the federal government for a military base; Colorado Springs purchased land south of the city and donated it to the War Department. Those first parcels expanded into the 137,000-acre Fort Carson, one of the nation's most important Army forts. Additionally, Colorado Springs offered use of the city's airport to the Army Air Corps on a \$1 per year lease that continues to this day. The adjoining base was later named Peterson Air Force Base in honor of Lt. Edward Peterson, the first airman to die in a training accident there. The city also offered vacant lots on the eastern edge of town, which became home to Ent Air Force Base, now the Olympic Training Center, which was named for its first commander, Maj. Gen. Uzal Ent. After the war, Colorado Springs continued lobbying the federal government for additional military presence; it donated land in the northwestern foothills for the newly approved U.S. Air Force Academy, attracted the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) to the Cheyenne Mountain granite stronghold adjacent to Fort Carson, and bolstered its place in the growing space sector with the construction of Schriever Air Force Base on the town's eastern plains. In December 2019, the U.S. Space Force was established as the newest branch of the Armed Forces and was provisionally headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base. Before World War II, Colorado Springs was a modest tourism town of 33,000 residents. Bolstered by a robust national defense economy that began in WWII, the city population grew to over 700,000 in 2023, which included nearly 45,000 active-duty troops, several thousand reservists and more than 100,000 veterans. As host to U.S. Northern Command, Air Force Space Command, Army Space and Missile Defense Command, NORAD, and the U.S. Air Force Academy, few cities in the United States can claim more strategic importance than Colorado Springs.

Post 209 Conceived

In the summer of 1975, several veterans in north central Colorado Springs began to formulate a plan to charter a new American Legion post in the Colorado Springs area. Existing posts in the region included Post 5 in downtown Colorado Springs, Post 38 in Security, and Post 39 in Manitou Springs. The 31 July 1975 edition of the Colorado Springs *Gazette-Telegraph* informed local veterans that a charter meeting would be held at 7:30 p.m. on 4 August 1975 at the Pizza Inn on the corner of Academy Boulevard and Templeton Gap Road. The new post, tentatively named Templeton Gap Post 209, was intended to serve veterans in the rapidly growing northern portion of Colorado Springs. On 18 August 1975, the application for Department of Colorado Post 209 of The American Legion was signed by the fifteen original charter members: James Canavan, George Candea, George Charlson, John Filipelli, Thom Foulks, John Gaillard, Leo Hall, Max Hoyer, Thomas Knutson, Paige Lanier, James Lipe, Paul Sherman, Jr., Noel Stolp, Joseph Wooten, and Jack Young.

The application was forwarded to The American Legion Department of Colorado and National Headquarters for approval. Colorado Department Commander James McNeal endorsed the application on 2 September 1975 and National Adjutant William Hauck provided the second endorsement on 8 September 1975. In a letter dated 11 September 1975, National Commander Harry Wiles congratulated the tentative post commander, James Lipe, on the issuance of a temporary post charter. The American Legion National Headquarters approved a permanent charter the following year. Officially chartered on 8 March 1976 during the nation's bicentennial and the 100th anniversary of Colorado statehood, it seemed appropriate to name the post "Centennial Post 209."

At the post membership meeting on 13 February 2016, a motion was approved to honor the memory and accomplishments of former Post and Department Commander, Neal Thomas, Jr., by associating his name to Post 209. Neal Thomas, Jr. was an Air Force veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, a 35+ year member of The American Legion and one of the organization's strongest supporters and allies. After retirement from active duty, Neal worked for 22 years at the Colorado Department of Labor as a Veterans Employment Representative. Throughout much of his adult life, he assisted countless fellow veterans in securing employment, housing, rehabilitation, education, and other services, and recruited a multitude of new members into The American Legion. He served as Post 209 Commander, Department of Colorado Commander, National Executive Committeeman, and as an officer in many Post, District, and Department level positions, and on National Commissions. He advocated for Post 209 at the Department and National level and was instrumental in Post 209's selection as "Host Post" for Department Conventions in 2010 and 2015. Until his passing after a long illness on 28 September 2014, Neal was an unwavering supporter and dynamic participant at Post activities and events. At the Department Convention in June 2015, he was recognized as the Department of Colorado "Legionnaire of the Year" for his lifetime of dedication to The American Legion, and his compassion and advocacy for his fellow Legionnaires. Lynn Thomas, Neal's wife, observed that Neal would have been extremely honored to be associated with the Post he loved so dearly, and she readily gave permission to add his name to Post 209.

Following a lengthy and impassioned discussion amongst the members present, a “hand vote” was taken on the motion, which passed by majority vote. In accordance with the Post Adjutants Manual, Section 1, “If changing the name when applying for a permanent charter or after the permanent charter has already been established, send a copy of the minutes or the resolution, or both, to department headquarters. The department will request the name change.” The post was officially re-chartered as “Neal Thomas, Jr.-Centennial Post 209” on 17 March 2016 by The American Legion National Headquarters and on 27 March 2016 by the Department of Colorado. American Legion Post 209, originally chartered in 1976, has grown to become the largest American Legion post in the state of Colorado. Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 is one over 12,000 American Legion posts worldwide, which combined, number nearly two million members. Members include veterans and active-duty members of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Space Force, U.S. Coast Guard and World War II U.S. Merchant Marines.



NEC Neal Thomas, Jr. at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Colorado Springs, CO, May 2012.



*Neal Thomas, Jr.-Centennial Post 209
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The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion



For God and Country,

we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;**
- to maintain law and order;**
- to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;**
- to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars;**
- to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;**
- to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;**
- to make right the master of might;**
- to promote peace and goodwill on earth;**
- to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of
justice, freedom and democracy;**
- to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our
devotion to mutual helpfulness.**

Chapter 1 - 2022-2023 Post 209 Officers

COMMANDER



Marvin Weaver, Jr.

SR VICE COMMANDER



Steve Hayes

JR VICE COMMANDER



Jerry Hopper

ADJUTANT



Doug Millison

FINANCE OFFICER



Sarah Tobin

CHAPLAIN



Brad Henderson

SGT-AT-ARMS



Bobby Senter
(and Rufus)

HISTORIAN



Kurt Skinner

SERVICE OFFICER



Brian Murphy

EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEEMAN



Art Kimbrel

PAST COMMANDER



Lino Calica

JUDGE ADVOCATE



Marvin Weaver

Chapter 2 - 2022-2023 Post 209 Committee Chairmen

Program Planning and Social
Committee



Jerry Hopper

Americanism and Youth
Committee



Marvin Weaver

House Committee



Art Kimbrel

Welcoming Committee



Bobby Senter

Veterans Affairs and
Rehabilitation Committee



Brian Murphy

Gaming Committee



Art Kimbrel

Membership Committee



Steve Hayes

Chapter 3 - One-Year Post History

MAY 2022

Following the post elections which were conducted during the 9 April 2022 membership meeting, the Post 209 Officer Installation Dinner was held at Post 209 on 14 May 2022, in which a new TAL leadership team was installed for 2022-23: Marvin Weaver, Jr. as Commander, Steve Hayes as Senior Vice Commander, Jerry Hopper as Junior Vice Commander, Doug Millison as Adjutant, Joel Haas as Finance Officer, Art Kimbrel as Executive Committeeman, Bobby Senter as Sergeant-at-Arms, and Brad Henderson as Chaplain. PDC Tom Bock presided over The American Legion Post 209 officer installation.

Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Squadron 209 also installed new officers for the 2022-23 term: Robert Barry as Commander, Brad Henderson as Senior Vice Commander, Chris Hollingsworth as Junior Vice Commander, Ken Taylor as Finance Officer, Brian Wess as Executive Committeeman, Brad Henderson as Chaplain, and Bob Ingram as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Additionally, the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 209 installed new officers for the 2022-23 term: Royce Hopper as President, Cathy Barger as Vice President, Patricia Weaver as Secretary, Kellie Hayes as Treasurer/Membership Chair, Mary Bramer as Chaplain, Jackie Bowen as Member-at-Large, and Michelle Bresee as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Post 209 had a prominent role at the 30 May 2022 Memorial Day Ceremony at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery (PPNC) in which PDC Jay Bowen was the guest speaker. As part of the ceremony, eight members of the Post 209 honor guard performed three rifle volleys, then the sounding of taps. Honor guard members included: Steve Hayes, Theron Charles, Steve White, Gary Asp, Marvin Weaver, Bill Thomas, Kurt Skinner, and Joel Haas (captain). Following the PPNC ceremony, many members of the Post 209 family (TAL, SAL, ALA, ALR) then met at Colorado Springs Memorial Park to pay respects at the various war memorials within the park.

During the month of May 2022, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 5 Military Funeral “Final” Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

JUNE 2022

Scouts BSA Troop 77, an all-female troop sponsored by ALA Unit 209, celebrated their first ever Eagle Scout, Isabel Henrikson, at Post 209 in the evening of 2 June 2022. Isabel’s Eagle Scout Court of Honor was attended by over 50 members of the Post 209 family.

Colorado Boys State 2022 was held at the Alta Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO from 4 June to 11 June 2022. Post 209 remained a cornerstone of the Colorado Boys State program, sponsoring 19 delegates from the Pikes Peak region. Pine Creek High School senior Caleb Chung, sponsored by Post 209, was elected as Boys State Governor. Five members from Post 209 helped staff 2022 Boys State, to include PNC Tom Bock as Director and PDC Jay Bowen as Chairman, with Kurt Skinner, Jerry Hopper, and Marvin Weaver serving as City Advisors. ALA Unit 209 members Elaine Bock and Jackie Bowen assisted with registration at the 2022 Colorado Boys State. Marvin Weaver served as Post 209 Boys State Coordinator in 2022-23, assisted by Kurt Skinner.

ALA Unit 209 sponsored 20 delegates for ALA CO Girls State held 4-9 June 2022 at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, CO. Four members from Unit 209 served as counselors, one member managed the canteen, and one member served as 2022 Director. Kellie Hayes was a member of the ALA CO Girls State Steering Committee and Royce Hopper was appointed at the mid-year convention. Several members of the Unit helped assemble packets for the delegates and other items as needed. An ice cream social was held at Post 209 in late May for the delegates and their parents; this was intended to be both a social and informational event for the delegates. The Auxiliary sponsored a taco bar dinner on 26 June to thank the sponsors of the 2022 ALA CO Girls State program. All the sponsors were invited to meet the delegate they sent to Girls State as well as the families of the delegates. Nine delegates and their families attended and shared their Girls State experiences.

On 12 June 2022, Adjutant Doug Millison initiated Post 209 family participation in the third annual American Legion "100 Miles for Hope" fundraiser program by hosting bi-weekly hikes in Colorado Springs Palmer Park. All proceeds of the hiking challenge go to support the Veteran & Children Foundation (V&CF), which provides support for disabled veterans, and military and veteran parents in unexpected financial crises.

During the month of June 2022, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 9 Military Funeral "Final" Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

JULY 2022

Many Post 209 delegates attended the Department of Colorado Convention held in Denver 1-2 July 2022. PDC Jay Bowen nominated Post 209 Commander Marvin Weaver Jr. for the office of Department 1st Vice Commander, but Weaver was unsuccessful in his election bid. At the SAL Detachment Convention held in conjunction, Rob Barry was elected SAL Detachment Junior Vice Commander and Brad Henderson was elected SAL Detachment Chaplain.

During the monthly PEC on 7 July 2022, Commander Weaver reappointed Brian Murphy as Service Officer and Marvin Weaver as Judge Advocate. Additionally, Commander Weaver recommended that Kurt Skinner fill the vacant Historian position and Sarah Tobin fill the Finance Officer position recently vacated by Joel Haas. The motions passed without discussion.

In July 2022, Adjutant Millison initiated a consolidated weekly "e-mail blast" of essential Post 209 information each Monday designed to greatly improve communication and dissemination of information to all Post 209 members. Additionally, he initiated weekly office hours to personally assist with Post 209 member issues.

The Post 209 Family honored PNC Tom Bock and his wife Elaine with a Thank-You dinner at Post 209 on 15 July 2022, recognizing their recent "retirement" from the Department of Colorado and decades of selfless service to the American Legion.

The 2022 American Legion Junior Shooting Sports 3-Position Air Rifle National Championship was held at the Olympic Training Center Shooting range in Colorado Springs, CO 21-23 July 2022. Post 209 hosted an evening welcome dinner for the contestants and their families on 21

July. Also attending as guests at the Post 209 dinner was American Legion PNC Bill Oxford, Sons of the American Legion National Commander Michael Fox, and American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel.

Earlier that same day, 21 July 2022, Post 209 hosted a luncheon for visiting American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard, which was also attended by Sons of the American Legion National Commander Michael Fox, American Legion Auxiliary National President Kathy Daudistel, National Chaplain Stan Hamamoto, PDC Jay Bowen, and many officers of Post 209: Post Commander Weaver, Vice Commander Hopper, PPC Lino Calica, Chaplain Henderson, Adjutant Millison, Sgt-at-Arms Bobby Senter, Historian Skinner, SAL Commander Rob Barry and Finance Officer Ken Taylor, and Department Adjutant Pat Smith.

During the month of July 2022, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 6 Military Funeral “Final” Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

AUGUST 2022

Tate Hollingsworth (Venturing Crew 762) and Olivia Agbo (Scouts BSA Troop 77) each presented their Eagle Scout project proposals to the PEC on 4 August 2022. Tate proposed xeriscaping the parking lot frontage of Post 209 property, which has traditionally suffered drainage problems. Olivia proposed constructing 12 wooden benches that can be converted into picnic tables for the Post 209 “backyard” recreational area. PEC approved funding assistance through the Post Improvement Fund. ALA Unit 209 also donated \$300 to Tate Hollingsworth’s Eagle Project and \$300 to Olivia Agbo’s Eagle Project. Both projects were expected to be complete by November 2022.

Post 209 hosted the final leg of the Department of Colorado ALR Pony Express Legacy Run held 6 August 2022. ALR 209 members prepared a taco dinner for the numerous riders from around the state. ALR State Chairman and Post 209 Vice Commander Steve Hayes reported that Post 209 raised over \$7000 of a statewide total of \$25,500 in donations for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, which will be presented at the 2022 National Convention. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship fund provides needs-based scholarships for children of post 9-11 KIA, died on active duty, and 50% or greater disabled Veterans.

Stanley Hamamoto’s year-long tenure as American Legion National Chaplain came to end after he delivered the closing prayer at the Patriotic Memorial Service on Sunday, 28 August 2022, at the 103rd National Convention in Milwaukee. Known at Post 209 simply as “Pastor Stan,” Hamamoto was the first ever American Legion National Chaplain from the Department of Colorado (and Post 209).

During the month of August 2022, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 3 Military Funeral “Final” Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

SEPTEMBER 2022

The Post 209 “Young Guns” program (American Legion Junior Shooting Sports) resumed for its Fall 2022 8-week session. The NRA Marksmanship Fall session began on 7 September 2022 and the Gun Safety and Basic Marksmanship Class began on 8 September 2022. There were twelve shooters enrolled in Marksmanship Class and twelve shooters enrolled in the Basic Class. Honor Guard Captain Joel Haas assumed leadership of the program in 2022; Haas, Chris Hollingsworth, Chuck Sorrels, and Ken Taylor served as NRA-accredited course instructors.

On 3 September 2022, ALA Unit 209 hosted a 100th Birthday party for WWII veteran Irvin Adair, attended by over 100 Adair family and community members.

During the monthly PEC on 8 September 2022, it was announced that BSA Cub Scout Pack 38 (sponsored by Post 209) will be disbanding, and that another BSA Cub Scout Pack 183 was looking for charter sponsorship. The PEC unanimously passed a motion that Post 209 sponsor Pack 183 with a new charter.

Eight members of the Post 209 Family conducted a 9-11 Memorial Walk through Colorado Springs Memorial Park on 11 September 2022 to honor and remember the first responders, military members, and the thousands of others who were lost on 9-11-01. Post 209 members Jay and Jackie Bowen, Marvin and Pat Weaver, Marvin Weaver Jr., Tom Bock, Doug Millison, and Michelle Bresee paid their respects at the Fallen Firefighters Memorial, Peace Officers Memorial, and Global War on Terrorism Memorial.

Colorado Boys State Chairman Jay Bowen, and Deputy Director Kurt Skinner, attended the American Legion Directors Conference in Indianapolis on 23-25 September 2022.

On 25 September 2022, the American Legion Family of Post 209 hosted the “Preflight Luncheon” for Mission #15 of the Southern Colorado Honor Flight in preparation for their October 2022 trip to the nation’s capital.

ALR Post 209 hosted their annual “ALR Post 209 Neal Thomas Jr. Memorial Run” on 25 September 2022, honoring the post namesake by conducting a group ride on the Sunday closest to his 2014 passing, to his gravesite at Fort Logan National Cemetery.

On 30 September 2022, the Post 209 Family hosted a Victory Service Dogs fundraiser dinner and silent auction at Post 209 which was attended by over 100 members and raised over \$2000 for this charity organization that assists in providing support animals to wounded military veterans.

During the month of September 2022, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 4 Military Funeral “Final” Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

OCTOBER 2022

ALR 209 members, joined by other District 7 ALRs, combined their efforts with local VFW, SFMC, VMC, CVMA, in providing security support and nighttime supervision for the El Paso County Homeless Veteran Coalition Annual Homeless Veteran Stand Down and Transitional Housing Initiative held at the Colorado Springs Auditorium on 18 October 2022. The Stand Down provided on-site food, supplies, vaccinations, medical care, VA support and other veterans assistance to Homeless Veterans in Southern Colorado. The Post 209 Family raised \$9,100 in support of the Veterans Homeless Coalition in 2022. Royce Hopper, Jackie Bowen, Marvin and Pat Weaver, Sarah Tobin-Barry and Rob Barry managed the Post 209 station which distributed ALA-donated hats, gloves, scarves, and socks to the veterans in attendance. ALA Unit 209 additionally provided four meals to the veterans/families selected for the Transitional Housing Initiative.

Post 209 hosted their annual Halloween party followed by “Trunk of Treat” in the Post 209 parking lot, attended by approximately 100 area children on 30 October 2022.

During the month of October 2022, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 1 Military Funeral “Final” Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

NOVEMBER 2022

On 3 November 2022, BSA Venturing Crew 762 celebrated their first birthday at Post 209. Chartered by Post 209 Legionnaires Tom Callahan and Chris Hollingworth, BSA Venturing Crew 762 is sponsored by SAL Squadron 209 as its chartering organization and has held bi-weekly meetings at Post 209 since its founding.

At the 3 November 2022 PEC, the Gaming Committee study (drafted by Art Kimbrel) on the feasibility of introducing an ongoing Bingo program for Post 209 to increase fundraising was discussed and approved to move toward post support at the next monthly membership meeting. If supported by membership, the program would require a minimum of 12-16 volunteers staffing Monday evenings at Carefree Bingo Hall and would be expected to earn Post 209 approximately \$1000 per session.

Many members of the Post 209 Family attended the 2022 Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade ceremony on 5 November 2022 in downtown Colorado Springs. Post 209 Color Guard members marching with the Colors included: Theron Charles, Dan Reilly, Rob Barry, Sarah Tobin, Bill Thomas, Brad Henderson, Valerie Stephens, and Joel Haas (captain). The ALR 209 Color Guard also participated by riding with the Colors.

On 8 November 2022 members of Post 209 SAL placed 1000 flags on Veterans graves at Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Colorado Springs.

The Post 209 “Young Guns” (American Legion Junior Shooting Sports) Awards night was held on Thursday, 10 November 2022 at Post 209, with over 70 shooters and their families in attendance. SAL 209 Commander Rob Barry provided pizza and cake for the attendees. Awards were presented to the NRA Marksmanship participants for Pro-Marksman, Marksman, and Sharpshooter. The Young Guns NRA-qualified Instructors received Certificates of Appreciation for their contributions to the program. Twelve students graduated from the gun safety and basic marksmanship course, with seven earning “Eagle Eye” awards for hitting the bullseye during the class competition. Awards were also presented for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in the final class competition.

SAL 209 and Venturing Crew 762 sponsored a “Refuse To Be a Victim” class at Post 209 to members of the community on 17 November 2022. The Refuse To Be a Victim program teaches methods and strategies for young adults to improve their personal safety.

On 18 November 2022, over 100 members of the Post 209 Family assembled for the annual Post 209 Thanksgiving dinner and “Turkey Shoot” raising funds for the Post 209 Young Guns Junior Shooting Sports program and BSA Venturing Crew 762. Following the dinner, an air rifle range was established in the main room of Post 209 in which contestants fired at paper Turkey targets. High score Female, Male, and overall junior champions were awarded with frozen turkeys.

The American Legion Riders from Post 209 spearheaded the annual Post 209 project of assembling and delivering 24 Thanksgiving boxes to pass out to local Veterans who otherwise would not be able to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Each box contained the food and ingredients for a complete Thanksgiving meal and was donated by Post 209 members.

During the month of November 2022, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 4 Military Funeral “Final” Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

DECEMBER 2022

On 6 December 2022, thirteen members of the Post 209 Family (Rob Barry, Sarah Tobin, Jay and Jackie Bowen, Marvin and Pat Weaver, Steve and Kellie Hayes, Jerry and Royce Hopper, Bobby Senter, Doug Millison, and Marvin Weaver Jr.) delivered 500 “goodie bags” (prepared by ALA Unit 209) to 18 Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) and Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) Stations to thank area first responders for their service to the community.

On 15 December 2022, Post 209 had the honor of hosting a standing room only veterans town hall led by VA Secretary Denis McDonough. Secretary McDonough, along with several senior VA national representatives, was in Colorado for the day to answer questions and promote awareness regarding the recently passed PACT (Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics) Act dealing with veteran health care and benefits for those who were potentially exposed to toxins in the line of duty. Dozens of Post 209 members attended the event. National Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman and PDC Jay Bowen served as emcee for the event. Former national Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission chairman and PDC Ralph Bozella served as moderator.

Participating in the National Wreaths Across American program, ALA Unit 209 purchased ten wreaths for the Pikes Peak National Cemetery, ten wreaths for Memorial Gardens Cemetery, and ten wreaths for Fort Logan National Cemetery. As part of the Wreaths Across America ceremony held on 17 December 2022 at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, eight members of the Post 209 Honor Guard performed three rifle volleys, then the sounding of taps. Honor guard members included: Steve Hayes, Dan Reilly, Bill Thomas, Rob Barry, Sarah Tobin, Brad Henderson, Kurt Skinner, and Joel Haas (captain).

During the month of December 2022, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 4 Military Funeral “Final” Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

JANUARY 2023

8 January 2023 – SAL Squadron 209 hosted its second “Refuse To Be a Victim” course at Post 209 for members of the Post 209 Family. The class was taught by SAL 209 Vice Commander Chris Hollingsworth.

At the Department of Colorado Mid-Year Conference held at Post 32 in Longmont, CO 27-29 January 2023, Post 209 Finance Officer Sarah Tobin was designated Department Sergeant-at-Arms. Post 209 Historian Kurt Skinner, as Boys State Deputy Director, provided a progress report and informational briefing on the Colorado Boys State program.

During the month of January 2023, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 3 Military Funeral “Final” Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

FEBRUARY 2023

Post 209 revived the “Four Chaplains” ceremony at Post 209 during the 11 February 2023 monthly membership meeting. Organized by Post 209 Chaplain Brad Henderson, the ceremony which honored the duty, heroism, and faith of the four WWII-era Dorchester chaplains who gave their lives in the service to others, featured members of the Post 209 Honor Guard: Rob Barry, Sarah Tobin, Kurt Skinner, and Joel Haas.

The 2023 Department Oratorical Contest was conducted according to revised rules in which sponsoring posts video recorded the Prepared Oration of local contestants and submitted the contestant packages online to the Department-level contest. On 8 and 9 February 2023, Post 209 Oratorical Contest Coordinators Kurt Skinner and Doug Millison conducted the regional participant recordings at the Pikes Peak 21C Library in Colorado Springs. Two Post 209-sponsored contestants, Amari Luu (3rd place) and Alessia Gambera (4th place), finished in the final standings at the Department Oratorical Contest conducted on 14 March 2023 in Denver.

The Post 209 “Young Guns” Junior Shooting Sports Program resumed for its Spring 2023 8-week session. The Gun Safety and Basic Marksmanship Class began on 9 February 2023 with nine shooters enrolled. Joel Haas, Chris Hollingsworth, and Ken Taylor served as course instructors.

SAL Squadron 209 hosted a Blood Drive (provided by Vitalant) at Post 209 on 27 February 2023 in which 22 donors from the Post 209 Family participated, strengthening the “National Security” readiness pillar of The American Legion.

During the month of February 2023, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 1 Military Funeral “Final” Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

MARCH 2023

Post 209 members PDC Bowen, Post Commander Weaver and Finance Officer Tobin, and SAL Squadron 209 Commander Barry were among those who represented the Department of Colorado at the American Legion Washington Conference in early March 2023, which laid out the American Legion’s legislative priorities to the joint session of House and Senate Veterans’ Affairs committees. As part of the week’s agenda, American Legion National Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman Jay Bowen testified before Congress on 2 March 2023. SAL Squadron 209 Commander Barry also attended the National SAL Commander’s laying of wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery and various Washington D.C. war memorials.

2022 Colorado Boys State Governor Caleb Chung, spoke about his Boys State experience during the 11 March 2023 monthly membership meeting at Post 209. Chung served as Class President at Pine Creek High School and was sponsored by Post 209 to 2022 Colorado Boys State.

During the month of March 2023, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 6 Military Funeral “Final” Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

APRIL 2023

SAL Squadron 209 hosted the 2023 SAL Detachment of Colorado Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) fundraiser dinner at Post 209 on 1 April 2023. Countless members of the entire Post 209 Family came together as host facility to make this a well-attended highly successful event. The Post 209 Family raised nearly \$6,600 in donations and auction purchases out of over \$16,000 total for the CWF, earning Post 209 the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation 100% Per Capita Banner.

On 9 April 2023, American Legion Family of Post 209 hosted the “Preflight Luncheon” for All-Women’s Mission #16 of the Southern Colorado Honor Flight in preparation for their April 2023 trip to the nation’s capital.

At a Scouting BSA Pathway to the Rockies Council awards ceremony held 4 April 2023, Post 209 Legionnaires Tom Callahan and Chris Hollingworth were awarded the “William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award” for founding BSA Venturing Crew 762 in November 2021, sponsored by SAL Squadron 209. Additionally, Callahan earned the BSA Silver Beaver, which is “the highest honor a council can bestow on a volunteer who has made an impact on the lives of youth through service given at the council level.”

The Post 209 Young Guns Junior Shooting Sports Program Spring 2023 session concluded with an Awards Night on 19 April 2023 at Post 209. Post 209 Commander Weaver, SAL Commander Barry, and Venturing Crew 762 Leader Chris Hollingsworth assisted Young Guns Leader Joel Haas in presenting the Marksmanship program awards to nine shooters. The Young Guns Program graduated eight new students.

BSA Venturing Crew 762 celebrated their first ever Eagle Scout as Levi West's Court of Honor was conducted on 20 April 2022 at Post 209.

During the month of April 2023, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 3 Military Funeral "Final" Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

MAY 2023

Post 209 Commander Weaver presented one JROTC award to a cadet at Doherty High School and two ROTC awards to cadets at University of Colorado at Colorado Springs on 1 May 2023; and Post Adjutant Millison presented three JROTC awards to cadets at Mitchell High School on 5 May 2023.

In May 2023, The American Legion announced the winners of its Media Alliance (TALMA) Contest for calendar year 2022. For posts over 750 members nationwide, Post 209 won the Publications category and the Website category. Special recognition went to Georgianna Shea, the editor for the Post newsletter and Steve Hayes, the webmaster for the Post 209 Website.

ALR State Chairman Steve Hayes confirmed that for the 2022-23 reporting period, ALR 209 was the second-largest ALR in Colorado with 55 members riding a total of over 110,000 miles with 7712 service hours, and donated a total of \$20,649 to American Legion veterans' assistance programs and youth scholarships.

During the month of May 2023, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 7 Military Funeral "Final" Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO.

Chapter 4 – Veterans Support

(a) HONOR FLIGHT

On 25 September 2022, the American Legion Family of Post 209 hosted the “Preflight Luncheon” for Mission #15 of the Southern Colorado Honor Flight in preparation for their October 2022 trip to the nation’s capital. On 9 April 2023, American Legion Family of Post 209 hosted the “Preflight Luncheon” for All-Women’s Mission #16 of the Southern Colorado Honor Flight in preparation for their April 2023 trip to the nation’s capital.



Post 209 Facility Manager Art Kimbrel and Kellie Hayes manage the post operations for Honor Flight #15 Pre-Flight Luncheon at Post 209, September 2022.



*All Women's Honor Flight #16 Pre-Flight luncheon at Post 209
9 April 2023*

(b) FINAL HONORS

From May 2022-May 2023, the Post 209 Honor Guard rendered 56 Military Funeral “Final” Honors at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Colorado Springs, CO, providing the firing of rifle volleys and presentation of ceremonial rounds to military veterans’ next of kin.



Post 209 Honor Guard at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, Memorial Day 2022. Left to right: Steve Hayes, Theron Charles, Gary Asp, Steve White, Marvin Weaver, Bill Thomas, Kurt Skinner, Joel Haas (commander).



Post 209 Honor Guard members (l to r) Sarah Tobin, Rob Barry, Bill Thomas, and Brad Henderson render Final Honors during a Military Funeral at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, May 2022.

(c) HOMELESS VETERANS

ALR 209 members, joined by other District 7 ALRs, combined their efforts with local VFW, SFMC, VMC, CVMA, in providing security support and nighttime supervision for the El Paso County Homeless Veteran Coalition Annual Homeless Veteran Stand Down and Transitional Housing Initiative held at the Colorado Springs Auditorium on 18 October 2022. The Stand Down provided on-site food, supplies, vaccinations, medical care, VA support and other veterans assistance to Homeless Veterans in Southern Colorado. The Post 209 Family raised \$9,100 in support of the Veterans Homeless Coalition in 2022. Royce Hopper, Kellie Hayes, Jackie Bowen, Marvin and Pat Weaver, Sarah Tobin-Barry and Rob Barry managed the Post 209 station which distributed ALA-donated hats, gloves, scarves, and socks to the veterans in attendance. ALA Unit 209 additionally provided four meals to the veterans/families selected for the Transitional Housing Initiative.



(Left to right) Post 209 Service Officer Brian Murphy and ALA Unit 209 members Kellie Hayes, Jackie Bowen, Royce Hopper, and Pat Weaver, at the El Paso County Homeless Veteran Stand Down, Colorado Springs Auditorium, 18 October 2022.



El Paso County Homeless Veteran Stand Down, Colorado Springs Auditorium, 18 October 2022.

24TH ANNUAL
STAND DOWN
For Colorado's Homeless Veterans
Tue 18 Oct 2022
9AM-3PM

VA & COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE ON SITE!

Clothing • Boots • Personal Care Items
Hot Lunches • Flu Shots • VA Medical Care
VA and Rocky Mountain Human Services
Veterans Administration • VA Claims Assistance
DD-214 Assistance • Veterinary Care

@City Auditorium • 221 E. Kiowa St
MORE INFO & RESOURCES: www.epchvc.org

(d) PACT ACT VA TOWN HALL

On 15 December 2022, Post 209 had the honor of hosting a standing room only veterans town hall led by VA Secretary Denis McDonough. Secretary McDonough, along with several senior VA national representatives, was in Colorado for the day to answer questions and promote awareness regarding the recently passed PACT (Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics) Act dealing with veteran health care and benefits for those who were potentially exposed to toxins in the line of duty. Dozens of Post 209 members attended the event. National Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman and PDC Jay Bowen served as emcee for the event. Former national Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission chairman and PDC Ralph Bozella served as moderator.



VA Secretary Denis McDonough (l) and senior VA representatives conducted a PACT Act town hall at Post 209, 15 December 2022.



National VE&E Chairman Jay Bowen (r) and VA Secretary McDonough (l) at Post 209, 15 December 2022



VA Secretary McDonough (seated 2nd from r) addressed questions from veterans about the PACT Act at the Post 209 town hall, 15 December 2022.

(e) VICTORY SERVICE DOGS

On 30 September 2022, the Post 209 Family hosted a Victory Service Dogs fundraiser dinner and silent auction at Post 209 which was attended by over 100 members and raised over \$2000 for this charity organization that assists in providing support animals to wounded military veterans.



Victory Service Dogs founder, Steve Corey, discussed the objectives of the veterans support program at Post 209, 30 September 2022.



Post 209 Sgt-at-Arms Bobby Senter and faithful Victory Service Dog companion Rufus, 30 September 2022.

Chapter 5 – National Security

(a) BLOOD DRIVE

SAL Squadron 209 hosted a Blood Drive (provided by Vitalant) at Post 209 on 27 February 2023 in which 22 donors from the Post 209 Family participated, strengthening the “National Security” readiness pillar of The American Legion.



Post 209 Adjutant Doug Millison (top l), SAL Squadron 209 Adjutant Ken Taylor (bottom l), and SAL Commander Rob Barry (r) led by example as they donated blood during the SAL-sponsored Blood Drive at Post 209 on 27 February 2023.

(b) ROTC AWARDS

Post 209 Commander Weaver presented one JROTC award to a cadet at Doherty High School and two ROTC awards to Army ROTC cadets at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs on 1 May 2023; and Post Adjutant Millison presented three JROTC awards to cadets at Mitchell High School on 5 May 2023.



Adjutant Millison presents ROTC award to JROTC cadet at Mitchell High School JROTC Awards ceremony, 5 May 2023.



Commander Weaver at Army ROTC Awards ceremony, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, 1 May 2023.

Military Excellence Award: The Cadet must be in the top 25 percent of the class in academic and ROTC subjects and must have demonstrated outstanding qualities in military leadership, discipline, character, and citizenship.



*The American Legion
ROTC Military Excellence
Medal*

(c) FIRST RESPONDER APPRECIATION

On 6 December 2022, thirteen members of the Post 209 Family (Rob Barry, Sarah Tobin, Jay and Jackie Bowen, Marvin and Pat Weaver, Steve and Kellie Hayes, Jerry and Royce Hopper, Bobby Senter, Doug Millison, and Marvin Weaver Jr.) delivered 500 “goodie bags” (prepared by ALA Unit 209) to 18 Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) and Colorado Springs Police Department (CSPD) Stations to thank area first responders for their service to the community.



ALA President Royce Hopper (center) and Marvin Weaver (r) present a Post 209 “goody bag” to CSPD officer (l), 6 December 2022.



Finance Officer Sarah Tobin (lower l) and SAL Sqn 209 Commander Rob Barry (center) with CSFD “goody bag” recipients, 6 December 2022.

Chapter 6 - Americanism

(a) BOYS STATE

Colorado Boys State 2022 was held at the Alta Hotel in Colorado Springs, CO from 4 June to 11 June 2022. Post 209 remained a cornerstone of the Colorado Boys State program, sponsoring 19 delegates from the Pikes Peak region. Pine Creek High School senior Caleb Chung, sponsored by Post 209, was elected as Boys State Governor. Five members from Post 209 helped staff 2022 Boys State, to include PNC Tom Bock as Director and PDC Jay Bowen as Chairman, with Kurt Skinner, Jerry Hopper, and Marvin Weaver serving as City Advisors. Marvin Weaver served as Post 209 Boys State Coordinator in 2022-23; Kurt Skinner was appointed Colorado Boys State Deputy Director in June 2022.



The 2022 delegates at Colorado Boys State, Alta Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO, 8 May 2022.

Post 209-sponsored 2022 Boys State delegates:

- Blake Bowshot (The Classical Academy)
- Judson Brau (Coronado High School)
- Kaden Cannon (Air Academy High School)
- Caleb Chung (Pine Creek High School)
- Ethan Dwyer (The Vanguard School)
- Noah Homer (The Classical Academy)
- Jackson Hughes (The Vanguard School)
- Stanten Krasinski (Air Academy High School)
- Hayden Kuppenheimer (Cheyenne Mountain High School)
- Gustavo Lambert (Air Academy High School)
- Joseph Leonard (Coronado High School)
- Keanu Likewise (Discovery Canyon High School)
- Ashton Lofton (Colorado Springs Christian High School)
- John Moritz (Palmer Ridge High School)
- Cole Murray (Palmer Ridge High School)
- Benjamin Myers (Cheyenne Mountain High School)
- Joshua Ramberg (Mesa Ridge High School)
- Jared Schaub (Discovery Canyon High School)

- Ethan Smith (Vista Ridge High School)
- Josh Spivey (Vista Ridge High School)
- Roinn Stout (Vista Ridge High School)
- Eric Swingley (Air Academy High School)
- Talan Terlizzi (Palmer Ridge High School)



Post 209-sponsored CO Boys State 2022 Governor, Caleb Chung, speaking at the monthly membership meeting at Post 209, 11 March 2023, Commander Weaver (l).

GIRLS STATE

ALA Unit 209 sponsored 20 delegates for ALA CO Girls State held 4-9 June 2022 at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, CO. Four members from Unit 209 served as counselors, one member managed the canteen, and one member was the 2022 Director. Kellie Hayes was a member of the ALA CO Girls State Steering Committee and Royce Hopper was appointed at the mid-year convention. Several members of the Unit helped assemble packets for the delegates and other items as needed. An ice cream social was held at Post 209 in late May for the delegates and their parents; this was intended to be both a social and informational event for the delegates. The Auxiliary sponsored a taco bar dinner on 26 June to thank the sponsors of the 2022 ALA CO Girls State program. All the sponsors were invited to meet the delegate they sent to Girls State as well as the families of the delegates. Nine delegates and their families attended and shared their Girls State experiences.



Kellie Hayes (back row left) and young ladies of ALA CO Girls State with Blue Star banners representing the current military service of at least one family member in the U.S. Armed Forces, UNC Greeley, CO, 9 June 2022.

Post 209-sponsored 2022 Girls State delegates:

- Danica Bishop (Discovery Canyon High School)
- Madeline Chambers (Pine Creek High School)
- Lauren Coval (Palmer Ridge High School)
- Rebecca Frazer (Palmer High School)
- Elizabeth Izaguirre (Cheyenne Mountain High School)
- Clara Johnson (Cheyenne Mountain High School)
- Orrin Jones (Air Academy High School)
- Dana Ko - Governor (Pine Creek High School)
- Jenna Moore (Lewis-Palmer High School)
- Megan Newkirk (Cheyenne Mountain High School)
- Taryn Plattner (Colorado Early Colleges)
- Alexis Vierra (Vanguard School)
- Rachel Bair (Mountain Vista High School)
- Kenzie Bredesen (Mountain Vista High School)
- Jenna Gardner (Chaparral High School)
- Lizzy Gardner (Sky View Academy)
- Joey Jung (Chaparral High School)
- Lillie Long (Mountain Vista High School)
- Hannah Park (Highlands Ranch High School)
- Gabby Shish (Mountain Vista High School)

(b) ORATORICAL CONTEST

The 2023 American Legion Oratorical Contest was conducted according to revised rules in which posts video recorded the Prepared Oration of local contestants and submitted the contestant packages online to the Department-level contest. On 8 and 9 February 2023, Post 209 Oratorical Contest Coordinators Kurt Skinner and Doug Millison conducted the regional participant recordings at the Pikes Peak 21C Library in Colorado Springs. Two Post 209-sponsored contestants, Amari Luu (3rd place) and Alessia Gambera (4th place), finished in the final standings at the Department Oratorical Contest conducted on 14 March 2023 in Denver.




Oratorical contestant Alessia Gambera at the Post 209 regional event, 8 February 2023, Pikes Peak 21C Library.




Department Oratorical Contest 3rd place winner, Amari Luu, at the Post 209 regional event, 8 February 2023, Pikes Peak 21C Library.

(c) JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

During 2022-23, American Legion Post 209 and SAL Squadron 209 continued to host a popular and well-regarded Junior Shooting Sports program, called “Young Guns,” which included two 8-week Basic Gun Safety and Marksmanship courses that were held September-November 2022 and February-April 2023. Classes and shooting were conducted indoors at Post 209, using air rifles. Participation was open to all youth ages 10-18. The program was led by Joel Haas and included NRA-accredited instructors Ken Taylor, Chuck Sorrels, and Chris Hollingsworth.



Remember, Shooting Sports is the only sport that can be done by anyone no matter what. It is a lifelong sport.



NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209
JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS


Contact Us:

Joel Haas, Chairman
Phone: 719-482-4496

Jesse Wade, Secretary
Phone: 719-237-7622


Email: jssp209@gmail.com

Web: legion209.org/young-guns/



Centennial Post 209 Young Guns Shooting Sports


The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is part of the Americanism Program offered through Centennial Post 209. The “Young Guns” of Post 209 meet on Thursdays at 3613 Jeannine Drive in Colorado Springs at 6:30PM.



All Our Instructors are NRA Certified in the Basic Rifle Discipline.

We accept all youth between the age of 10 and 18.

All Youth will be attending a 9-week The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Safety Course. The cost of the course is \$30.00. This is the only cost that the student will incur. For this investment they receive a pair of Safety glasses, Manuals, Use of all equipment, and all supplies needed for the course.






The American Legion
Centennial Post 209
3613 Jeannine Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80917

At the end of the course, week 10, an Awards and Graduation dinner will be held for the Students and Families.

After the course they will be encouraged to continue on to the Marksmanship Course and become Student Coaches for the next Course if they want to.

As we build a Competitive team with graduates we will begin to compete with other shooting clubs.

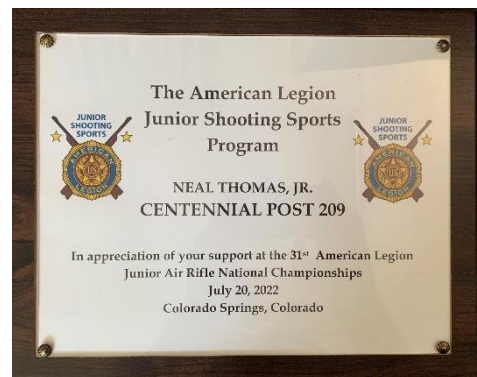


There are various tournaments that are held throughout the year in different locations that we will be participating in as we build our “Sons of The American Legion” Post 209 Team.

We encourage anyone interested to come and check us out and see how much fun a person can have in shooting sports when it is done safely and the right way.



Instructors Joel Haas (l) and Chris Hollingsworth (r) keep an eye on the range during a Young Guns range practice at Post 209, 16 March 2023.



Young Guns 2022-23 brochure

(d) SCOUTING

During 2022-23, The American Legion Post 209 Family was the charter partner for the following Boys Scouts of America (BSA) units supporting a total of 102 scouts:

- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls – American Legion Post 209)
- Cub Scout Pack 183 (Boys and Girls – American Legion Post 209)
- Scouts BSA Troop 77 (Girls – American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209)
- Scouts BSA Troop 79 (Boys – American Legion Post 209)
- Scouts BSA Troop 187 (Boys – American Legion Post 209)
- Venturing Crew 762 (Young men and women ages 14-20 – Sons of the American Legion Squadron 209)

Post 209 units are members of the *Pathway to the Rockies Council*, BSA service area in South-Central Colorado.

During 2022-23, the following members of Post 209 Family-sponsored troops achieved the rank of “Eagle Scout”:

- Isabel Henrikson (Scouts BSA Troop 77)
- Olivia Agbo (Scouts BSA Troop 77)
- Levi West (Venturing Crew 762)
- Tate Hollingsworth (Venturing Crew 762)



Venturing Crew 762 hard at work on Tate Hollingsworth’s Eagle Scout project at Post 209, 15 October 2022.



Troop 77’s first Eagle Scout, Isabel Henrikson, at her Court of Honor, Post 209, 2 June 2022



Troop 77 Eagle Scout, Olivia Agbo (l), at her Court of Honor, Post 209, March 2023

(e) FOUR CHAPLAINS CEREMONY

Post 209 revived the “Four Chaplains” ceremony at Post 209 during the 11 February 2023 monthly membership meeting. Organized and narrated by Post 209 Chaplain Brad Henderson, the ceremony which honored the duty, heroism, and faith of the four WWII-era Dorchester chaplains who gave their lives in the service to others, featured members of the Post 209 Honor Guard: Rob Barry, Sarah Tobin, Kurt Skinner, and Joel Haas.



Four Chaplains ceremony at Post 209 February membership meeting, 11 February 2023.



Post 209 Chaplain Brad Henderson wrote and narrated the Four Chaplains ceremony, 11 February 2023.

(f) PATRIOTIC OBSERVANCES



PDC Jay Bowen provided the keynote address during the 2022 Memorial Day observance ceremony at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, 30 May 2022.



Post 209 Family members honored 9-11 first responders at the Memorial Park Firefighters Memorial, Colorado Springs, 11 September 2022. Pictured left to right: Doug Millison, Michelle Bresee, Gerald Koch, Pat Weaver, Tom Bock, Jay Bowen, Marvin Weaver Jr., Marvin Weaver.



Post 209 Color Guard (l to r) Theron Charles, Dan Reilly, Brad Henderson, Valerie Stephens, Rob Barry, Sarah Tobin, & Bill Thomas, prepare to parade the Colors during the Veterans Day Parade, Colorado Springs, 5 November 2022.

#RALLYAROUNDTHEFLAG

"There is no greater, more beautiful, and instantly recognizable symbol of our nation and its ideals, traditions and values than the flag of the United States."

Ronald Reagan, 40th President of the United States

AMERICAN LEGION

Members of Post 209 proudly celebrate Flag Day on 14 June ...and every day!



Post 209 Honor Guard members (l to r) Kurt Skinner, Brad Henderson, Rob Barry, Joel Haas, Sarah Tobin, Dan Reilly, Bill Thomas, Steve Hayes provided the 21-gun salute during the Wreaths Across America ceremony at PPNC, 17 December 2022.



SAL 209 Commander Barry rendering honors at Memorial Gardens cemetery during the SAL Squadron 209 placement of U.S. flags at veteran gravesites, Colorado Springs, 26 May 2022



Wreaths Across America at Pikes Peak National Cemetery, 17 December 2022.

Chapter 7 – Children & Youth

SAL Squadron 209 hosted the 2023 SAL Detachment of Colorado Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) fundraiser dinner at Post 209 on 1 April 2023. Countless members of the entire Post 209 Family came together as host facility to make this a well-attended and highly successful event. The Post 209 Family raised nearly \$6,600 in donations and auction purchases out of over \$16,000 total for the CWF, earning Post 209 the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation 100% Per Capita Banner.



SAL Detachment of Colorado CWF Fundraiser Dinner hosted by SAL Sqdn 209, 1 April 2023.

Post 209 hosted the final leg of the Department of Colorado ALR Pony Express Legacy Run held 6 August 2022. ALR 209 members prepared a taco dinner for the numerous riders from around the state. ALR State Chairman (Post 209 Vice Commander) Steve Hayes reported that Post 209 raised over \$7000 of a statewide total of \$28,000 in donations for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, which was presented at the 2022 National Convention. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship fund provides needs-based scholarships for children of post 9-11 Killed in Action (KIA), died on active duty, and 50% or greater disabled Veterans.



Colorado ALR Western/Southern route riders from ALRs 2,9,13,38,113, and 209 at the Walsenburg, CO relay station, 6 August 2022. Post 209 Senior Vice Commander (and State ALR Chairman) Steve Hayes pictured in lower right.

Chapter 8 – Roster of Sons of the American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

COMMANDER



Rob Barry

**SENIOR VICE
COMMANDER**



Brad Henderson

ADJUTANT



Ken Taylor

**SQUADRON EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEEMAN**



Brian Wess

**JUNIOR VICE
COMMANDER**



Chris Hollingsworth

CHAPLAIN



Brad Henderson

SGT-AT-ARMS



Bob Ingram

FINANCE



Ken Taylor

Chapter 9 – Roster of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

PRESIDENT



Royce Hopper

VICE PRESIDENT



Cathy Barger

SECRETARY



Pat Weaver

TREASURER



Kellie Hayes

HISTORIAN



Sarah Tobin

CHAPLAIN



Mary Bramer

SGT-AT-ARMS



Michelle Bresee

EXECUTIVE-AT-LARGE



Jackie Bowen

Chapter 10 – Roster of American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

PRESIDENT



Jerry Shay

VICE PRESIDENT



Sean Cope

SECRETARY



Royce Hopper

TREASURER



Kellie Hayes

ROAD CAPTAIN



Scott Laudran

CHAPLAIN



Jim Bird

SGT-AT-ARMS



Joe York

HISTORIAN



Jonathan Shay

LOGISTICS



Terry Buxton


COMMUNICATIONS



Chelcie Wirth

APPENDIX 1 – Post 209 Charter Members

- James Canavan
- George Candea
- George Charlson
- John Filipelli
- Thom Foulks
- John Gaillard
- Leo Hall
- Max Hoyer
- Thomas Knutson
- Paige Lanier
- James Lipe
- Paul Sherman, Jr.
- Noel Stolp
- Joseph Wooten
- Jack Young



Application for Post of The American Legion (Temporary Charter)

Provisions of The American Legion National Constitution

**ARTICLE IV
Eligibility**

Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in The American Legion who was a member of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or Air Force of the United States and assigned to active duty at some time during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941, to September 2, 1945; June 25, 1950, to July 27, 1953; all dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either of said periods; provided, however, that such service shall have been terminated by honorable discharge or honorable separation, or continued honorably after either of said periods; provided further, that no person shall be entitled to membership who, being in such service during either of said periods, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service.

Section 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

**ARTICLE IX
Post Organization**

Section 1. Those who desire to form a Post shall make application for a temporary charter to the Commander of the Department in which they reside. The temporary charter shall be issued by the National Commander and National Adjutant upon receipt of the application properly executed by the charter members of the proposed Post, but only when such application is approved by the Commander of the Department, or by the Department Executive Committee. Post charters shall be countersigned by the Commander and the Adjutant of the Department.

Section 2. The minimum membership of a Post shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the Department in whose area it lies.

Section 3. No Post shall be named after any living person.

Section 4. A temporary charter shall be granted and shall state that it is granted on the recommendation of the Department and on the following terms and conditions:

1. All acts heretofore duly and properly taken for the formation of the above named Post are recognized and confirmed by the National Executive Committee.
2. The above named Post shall uphold the declared principles of The American Legion and shall conform to and abide by the regulations and decisions of the Department and of the National Executive Committee, or other duly constituted national governing body of The American Legion.
3. This charter is subject to revocation by the National Executive Committee on the recommendation of the Department, or by such authority that may hereafter be established by the National Convention.

Section 5. After a temporary charter has been in effect for a probationary period of at least ninety days, application for a permanent charter may be made. Such probationary period shall not exceed one year upon the termination of which the Department shall determine whether or not a permanent charter shall be issued or denied and the action of the Department shall be final.

Section 6. All charters shall be countersigned by the Commander and the Adjutant of the Department.

Section 7. Each Department may prescribe the constitution of its Posts. Permanent charters may be suspended, cancelled or revoked by the Department Executive Committee as provided in the By-Laws.

INSTRUCTIONS (Read Carefully)—Each local group will designate a representative to sign the certificate at the foot of this application and to receive the charter when issued. Applications should be properly executed by number of persons designated by Department Executive Committee at a minimum. Applications must be made in triplicate, one original, one duplicate, the signatures of applicants eligible for membership and two copies bearing the same names in triplicate. All three will be forwarded to the Department Commander. The original application will be returned with endorsement to the Local Post with the charter. One copy of application will be retained by Department Headquarters and the other by National Headquarters.

To The American Legion, Department of.....COLORADO.....

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that we are eligible for membership in The American Legion as provided in Section 1, Article IV, of the National Constitution as above quoted.

We hereby request the issuance of a temporary charter for the formation of a Post at
.....COLORADO SPRINGS.....

to be known as.....TEMPLETON GAP..... Post.

No. 209..... Department of.....COLORADO.....

On issuance of a charter we hereby agree to organize and maintain a Post under the above name with the minimum membership designated by Department Executive Committee. We hereby further agree to uphold the principles of THE AMERICAN LEGION and to comply with all rules and regulations prescribed by the Department and National Organizations of The American Legion.

NAMES	ADDRESSES	
James T Canavan	4319 N. Garafrea	80907
George A Candea	1702 Acacia Dr	80907
George S Charlson	Box 4495	80930
John J Filipelli	4065 Templeton Gap	80907
Thom Foulks	5311 Alta Loma Rd	80918
John F Gaillard	632 Val Jean Place	80906
Leo L Hall	3623 Indianpipe Circle	80907
Max J Hoyer	4135 Hollow Rd	80917
Thomas A Knutson	4230 Hollow Rd	80917
E Paige Lanier	3574 Nonchalant Circle	80917
James G Lipe	3805 Radiant Drive # 421	80917
Paul E Sherman Jr	3638 Parlmoor Village	80907
Noel C Stolp	1830 Okeschobee Dr	80915
Joseph E Wooten	5524 Cambria Dr	80918
Jack D Young	3613 Haven Circle	80917
Colorado Springs, Colorado		August 18, 19 75

I HEREBY CERTIFY to the accuracy and good faith of the above application. The charter when issued is to be mailed to me at the address below.

James G Lipe (Signature) 3805 Radiant Dr. Apt 421 (Address)

POST RECORD (See Other Side)

Original Application for Post 209 Charter

APPENDIX 2 – Post 209 Past Commanders

- James Lipe (provisional), 1975-76
- Thomas Knutson, 1976-77
- Wallace Lonsinger, 1977-78
- John Gaillard, 1978-79
- Max Hoyer, 1979-88, 1988-89
- Neal Thomas, Jr., 1984-6
- John Kovar, 1988-89
- June Thomas Swearengin, 1990-92
- Floyd Bufkin, 1992-94
- Al Cyriaque, 1994-95
- Harry Johnson, 1995-97
- Harry McFadden, 1997-98
- Larry Johnson, 1989-90, 1998-99
- Francis Redington, 1999-2001
- Chuck Zeitvogel, 2001-04
- Bill Marshall, 2004-06
- W.W. Bandler, 2006-08
- Phil Larsen, 2008-09
- Jay Bowen, 2009-2014
- Greg Smith, 2014-16
- Mike Barger, 2016-18
- Lino Calica, 2018-2020
- Joseph Schmidt, 2020-2022



APPENDIX 3 – Post 209 Awards & Media References

POST 209 AWARDS

- 2022 “Children First Award” received from The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) for the American Legion Post 209 Family donation of over \$1500.
- 2023 The American Legion Media Alliance (TALMA) Contest
<https://www.legion.org/talma/259061/talma-names-its-2023-contest-winners>
 - **Winner** - Publications (Newsletter) - Posts over 750 members: Georgianna Shea, editor, American Legion Neal Thomas, Jr. Centennial Post 209
 - **Winner** - Website - Posts over 750 members: Steve Hayes, webmaster, American Legion Neal Thomas, Jr. Centennial Post 209

POST 209 MEDIA REFERENCES

- “American Legion Auxiliary Post 209 Celebrates Birthday of 100 Year Old WW2 Vet.” Fox 21 News, 3 September 2022. <https://www.fox21news.com/news/american-auxiliary-post-209-celebrates-birthday-of-100-year-old-ww2-vet/>
- “Suits for Troops Donation Drive to be Hosted at American Legion Post 209.” Fox 21 News, 24 September 2022. <https://www.fox21news.com/news/suits-for-troops-donation-drive-to-be-hosted-at-american-legion-post/>
- “Honor Flight Mission #15 Pre-Flight Luncheon at Post 209.” KOAA 5 News, 25 September 2022.
- “A Week That Can Shape a Lifetime - Boys & Girls State interview with Jay Bowen & Royce Hopper.” Fox 21 News, 11 April 2023. <https://www.fox21news.com/mornings/in-studio-interviews/a-week-that-can-shape-a-lifetime/>
- “American Legion Post 209 Honor Guard Memorial Day Ceremony 2022.” LegionTown.org, 1 June 2022. <https://www.legion.org/stories/honor-guard/american-legion-post-209-honor-guard-memorial-day-ceremony-2022>

- “American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 Colorado Springs Walks to Honor & Remember 9/11.” LegionTown.org, 14 September 2022
<http://www.legiontown.org/other/9482/american-legion-neal-thomas-jr-centennial-post-209-colorado-springs-walks-honorremember>
- “The Impact one member can make.” LegionTown.org, 12 January 2023.
<https://www.legion.org/stories/honor-guard/impact-one-member-can-make>
- “Department of Colorado Firefighter of the Year” (SAL Squadron 209 Commander Rob Barry mentioned). LegionTwn.org, 30 January 2023.
http://www.legiontown.org/honors/10284/department-colorado-firefighter-year?fbclid=IwAR2LogebhwBG5QlrXccFfiRyJ0e6KBbLIhotvi4YB0_hlScVGXE9xdIh9pw
- “Memorial Service Dedicated to Fallen Comrades - National Chaplain Pastor Stan delivers final prayer at 103rd Convention in Milwaukee.” Legion.org, 28 August 2022.
<https://www.legion.org/convention/256723/memorial-service-dedicated-fallen-comrades>
- “TALMA Names Its 2023 Contest Winners.” Legion.org, 23 May 2023.
<https://www.legion.org/talma/259061/talma-names-its-2023-contest-winners>
- PACT Act Roundtable with VA Secretary McDonough at Post 209
 - <http://www.legiontown.org/veteranshelping/10012/pact-act-roundtable-american-legion-post-209-colorado-springs-colo>
 - <https://www.legion.org/stories/veterans-helping-veterans/pact-act-roundtable-american-legion-post-209-colorado-springs-colo>
 - <https://www.legion.org/benefits/257727/va-takes-pact-act-awareness-campaign-road>

APPENDIX 4 – Post 209 Representation

National-level Appointments

- Post 209’s long-time chaplain, “Pastor Stan” Hamamoto, appointed at the 2021 National Convention as National Chaplain, the first from the Department of Colorado, completed his term of office at the National Convention in August 2022.



“Has God been good to you today?” asked National Chaplain “Pastor Stan” Hamamoto as he delivered the closing prayer at the 103rd American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee, WI., 28 August 2022.



PNC Tom Bock (l) and Elaine Bock present Past National Chaplain, Stan Hamamoto (r), with a shadow box honoring his tenure as National Chaplain, at the Post 209 January membership meeting, 14 January 2023.

- Jay Bowen finished his term as National Membership & Post Activities Committee Chairman for 2021-22 and in October 2022 was appointed as Chairman of the National Veterans Employment and Education Commission.



National Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman, Jay Bowen, testimony before Joint Armed Services Committee, Washington, D.C., 2 March 2023.

- PNC Tom Bock (National Commander 2005-2006) was appointed as Director of Boys Nation in June 2022.



A Boys Nation Senator (l) is greeted by Boys Nation Director, Tom Bock (r), Marymount University, Arlington, VA., 22 July 2022



Post 209 Commander Weaver at the U.S. Capitol during the Washington Conference, 28 February 2023.

- Kurt Skinner was appointed to the National Americanism Council in October 2022.
- Marvin Weaver, Jr. was appointed to the National Veterans Affairs & Education Council.

Department positions

- PDC Jay Bowen continued in 2022-23 as Chairman of Colorado Boys State.
- Kurt Skinner appointed as Deputy Director of Colorado Boys State in June 2022.
- Sarah Tobin was appointed to the Department Legislative Committee in January 2023.
- 2022-23 ALR State Chairman - Steve Hayes
- 2022-23 SAL Detachment Jr Vice - Commander Rob Barry
- 2022-23 SAL Detachment Chaplain - Brad Henderson
- 2022-23 TAL Sergeant-at-Arms - Sarah Tobin

District 7 positions

- 2022-23 Adjutant - Marvin Weaver
- 2022-23 Jr Vice Commander - Sarah Tobin

APPENDIX 5 – Post 209 Elections

Post elections were conducted during the 9 April 2022 membership meeting. The following candidates ran unopposed and were elected by a majority voice vote:

- Marvin Weaver, Jr. – Commander
- Steve Hayes – Senior Vice Commander
- Jerry Hopper – Junior Vice Commander
- Joel Haas – Finance Officer
- Executive Committeeman – Art Kimbrel
- Bobby Senter - Sgt-at-Arms
- Brad Henderson – Chaplain

Larry Johnson and Doug Millison competed for the office of Post Adjutant; Millison won by majority voice vote.

The appointment of the following individuals was recommended by Post Commander Weaver at the July 2022 Post Executive Committee meeting and accepted without discussion to fill the remainder of the 2022-23 term:

- Brian Murphy - Service Officer (reappointed)
- Marvin Weaver – Judge Advocate (reappointed)
- Kurt Skinner – Historian (position was vacant and unfilled during the April 2022 election)
- Sarah Tobin – Finance Officer (position was vacated after the April 2022 election)

Post elections were conducted during 8 April 2023 membership meeting. The following candidates ran unopposed and were elected by a majority voice vote:

- Marvin Weaver, Jr. – Commander
- Steve Hayes – Senior Vice Commander
- Jerry Hopper – Junior Vice Commander
- Doug Millison - Adjutant
- Eric Veed – Finance Officer
- Kurt Skinner - Historian
- Bobby Senter - Sergeant-at-Arms
- Robert O'Donnell – Chaplain

Art Kimbrel and Jeff Heischman competed for the office of Executive Committeeman; Kimbrel won by majority hand count.

APPENDIX 6 – Post 209 Constitution & By-Laws

The American Legion

Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209

3613 Jeannine Drive

Colorado Springs, CO 80917

CONSTITUTION

Ratified 12 September 2020

Preamble

For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1 - The name of this organization shall be Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209, The American Legion, Department of Colorado.

Section 2 - The purposes of this Post shall be to promote the principles and policies set forth in the foregoing preamble and in the National and Department Constitutions of The American Legion.

ARTICLE II

Nature

Section 1 - This Post is a civilian organization, and membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in this Post, and no member thereof is expected to be addressed by his/her military title in any Post meeting.

Section 2 - This Post is non-political and will not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preference.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1 - Any person may become of member of this Post who is eligible for membership in The American Legion under the provision of Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion.

Section 2 - There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

Section 3 - Applications for membership in this Post shall be reviewed by the Membership Committee or Post officer to verify eligibility of the candidates. Candidates accepted for membership must provide proof of eligibility, such as a DD Form 214.

Section 4 - A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid by January 1st, shall be classed as delinquent. If their dues are paid on or before February 1st, they shall be automatically reinstated. If still delinquent after February 1st, they shall be suspended from all privileges of membership. If still under suspension on June 30th of each year, membership in The American Legion shall be forfeited.

Section 5 - Any member of this Post may be expelled for cause by two-thirds vote of the members present, in the presence of a quorum, after charges are preferred in writing and under oath, and after a fair trial upon the charges. Grounds for expulsion of members and procedures to be followed shall be as prescribed in Article XII, Section 1 of the Constitution of The American Legion, Department of Colorado.

(a) A member who has been expelled or suspended from this Post under provisions of Sections 4 or 5 above may be reinstated to membership by a two-thirds vote of the membership present in a Post meeting in which a quorum is present, and by payment of current dues for the year in which the reinstatement occurs.

(b) No person who has been expelled by a Post shall be admitted to this Post without the consent of the expelling Post, except that where such consent has been requested and denied, the expelled member may then appeal to the Department of Colorado Executive Committee for permission to apply for membership in this Post, and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission has been granted.

Section 6 - Members who joined this Post prior to the date of issuance of the permanent charter shall be known as charter members.

ARTICLE IV

Government

Section 1 – The Post Executive Committee shall consist of officers of this Post and shall be a Commander, a Senior Vice-Commander, a Junior Vice-Commander, an Adjutant, a Finance Officer, a Chaplain, an Historian, a Service Officer, a Sergeant-at-Arms, a Judge Advocate, the immediate past Post Commander, and a Post Executive Committeeman.

Section 2 - The administrative affairs of this Post shall, except as may be otherwise provided by the By-laws, be under the supervision of the Post Executive Committee.

Section 3 - Every member of this Post in good standing shall be eligible to hold office in this Post.

Section 4 -

(a) Officers of this Post, except the Service Officer and Judge Advocate, shall be elected annually for a term of one year, and shall hold office until the close of the annual Department Convention. The Post Executive Committeeman shall be elected concurrently with the officers of the Post, and his/her term of office shall coincide with that of the officers.

(b) The Service Officer and Judge Advocate shall be appointed by the Commander-elect and approved by a majority vote of the incoming Post Executive Committee.

Section 5 - Any officer or Post Executive Committeeman may be removed from office for inefficiency or dereliction of duty by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee in the presence of a quorum.

Section 6 - When any elected or appointed office of this Post becomes vacant, a replacement may be appointed by the Commander with a majority vote of the Executive Committee. Officers so appointed to fill vacancies shall serve until a successor has been elected or appointed in accordance with Section 4 of this article.

ARTICLE V

Board of Trustees

Section 1 - The Board of Trustees shall be incorporated as the official body representing The American Legion, Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209, Department of Colorado in all legal and binding agreements. The Board is empowered to enter into contracts, mortgages, and other fiscal instrumentalities as the official authority of the Post. The Board derives its power to act on behalf of the Post by approval of resolutions authorizing the pertinent activity. The authority may be limited only to the action to be taken, the best method of action to be determined by the Board.

Section 2 - The President of the Board of Trustees shall be insured and governed by State and Federal regulations pertaining to the administration of sound business practices. It shall further be the responsibility of all members of the Board of Trustees to act judiciously in the execution of all duties to enhance the image of The American Legion.

Section 3 - Selection for membership to the Board of Trustees and conduct of meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be governed by the By-laws of The American Legion, Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209.

ARTICLE VI

Finance

Section 1 - The revenue of this Post shall be derived from annual membership dues and other such fundraising activities as may be approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 2 - The amount of such annual membership dues shall be established by the Executive Committee subject to approval by a majority vote of the members present at a regular Post meeting in which a quorum is present. Any proposed change in the amount of such annual membership dues will be announced in writing to the members not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting at which a vote will be taken.

Section 3 - This Post shall forward the National and Department per-capita dues for all members of the Post in accordance with Article X of The American Legion National Constitution.

Section 4 - Financial records of the Post shall be audited annually following receipt of the financials for the period ending 30 June. The audit shall be conducted by a committee consisting of the newly appointed Judge Advocate (Chairman), the newly-elected senior vice-commander, the outgoing, and newly elected Finance Officers. Results of the audit shall be reported to the membership at the regular Post meeting immediately following the completion of the audit.

Section 5 – Authorized banking signatories shall be assigned as follows:

- (a) The Post Commander
- (b) The Post Finance Officer
- (c) The Post Adjutant
- (d) The President of the Board of Trustees
- (e) Any other person(s) designated as a signatory by the Post Commander

Section 5 - Financial institution signature cards records shall be reviewed by the Post Commander on a yearly basis on or before 30 June or if one or more of the following occurs.

- (a) The resignation, removal, or death of the Post Commander.
- (b) The resignation, removal, or death of the Post Finance Officer.
- (c) The resignation, removal, or death of the Post Adjutant.
- (d) The resignation, removal, or death of other assigned signatory.
- (e) In cases of fraud, theft, embezzlement, or other illicit activity.
- (f) As requested by the Post Commander or the Executive Committee.

Section 6 – The Post Executive Committee shall maintain on file a list of approved vendors. This list is to include vendors, utilities, and suppliers for which the Post does regular business. This record will be reviewed yearly on or before 30 June or as needed by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII

The American Legion Auxiliary

Section 1 - This Post recognizes an auxiliary organization to be known as the Auxiliary Unit of Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209, The American Legion, Department of Colorado.

Section 2 - Membership in the Auxiliary Unit shall be as prescribed in the National Constitution of The American Legion Auxiliary and as prescribed in the Unit 209 Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII

The Sons of The American Legion

Section 1 - This Post recognizes a Sons of The American Legion (SAL) organization, to be known as The Sons of The American Legion Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Squadron 209, Department of Colorado.

Section 2 - Membership in the Sons of The American Legion Centennial Squadron 209 shall be as prescribed in the National Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion and as prescribed in the SAL Squadron 209 Constitution.

ARTICLE IX

The American Legion Riders Post 209

Section 1 - This Post recognizes an American Legion Riders (ALR) organization, to be known as The American Legion Riders Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209, Department of Colorado.

Section 2 - Membership in The American Legion Riders shall be as prescribed in the National Constitution of The American Legion Riders and as prescribed in the ALR Post 209 Constitution.

ARTICLE X

Authority and Amendments

Section 1 - This Constitution is adopted subject to the provisions of the National Constitution of The American Legion and of the Department Constitution of the Department of Colorado, The American Legion. Any amendment to said National or Department Constitution, which is in conflict with any provision of this Constitution shall be regarded as automatically repealing or modifying such provision of this Constitution to the extent of such conflict.

Section 2 - This Constitution may be amended at any regular Post meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting in which there is a quorum, providing that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at the next preceding regular Post meeting, and providing further that written notice shall have been given to all Post members at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying such members that at such a meeting a proposal to amend the Constitution is to be voted upon.

This Constitution of The American Legion, Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 was ratified through the 12 September membership meeting.

Attest:

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Joseph A. Schmidt

Commander

12 September 2020

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jerry D. Hopper

Adjutant

The American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209
3613 Jeannine Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80917

BY-LAWS

Ratified

12 September 2020

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1 - The Post existing under these By-laws is to be known as Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209, The American Legion, Department of Colorado.

Section2 - The purpose of this Post is set forth in the Post 209 Constitution.

ARTICLE II

The Executive Committee

Section 1 - The government and management of this Post shall be entrusted to a committee of twelve (12) members, to be known as the Executive Committee.

Section 2 - The Executive Committee shall consist of elected and appointed officers of the Post. Officers of the Post shall be elected annually at the first regular meeting in April, and shall take office at the first regular meeting following the Department Convention.

Section 3 - The immediate past commander of the Post shall also be a member of the Executive Committee, except that they shall not take office unless they have successfully completed the term to which they were elected/appointed.

Section 4 - All vacancies existing on the Executive Committee or any office of the Post from any cause other than the expiration of the normal term of office may be filled by appointment by the Post Commander with the approval of a majority of the remaining members of the Executive Committee. A member so appointed shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term of the member of the committee or officer whom they succeed. A vacancy shall exist when a member or officer is absent from his/her post for a continuous period considered detrimental to the interest of the Post by the Executive Committee, or if an officer is removed for cause, and/or if an officer resigns his/her position.

Section 5 - The Executive Committee shall meet for organization and such other business as may come before it at the call of the Post Commander within two weeks after the installation of new officers. Thereafter, the Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Post Commander at least once each month and as often as the Post Commander deems necessary. Additionally, the Post Commander shall call a special meeting of the Executive Committee upon the joint written request of three or more members of the Executive Committee.

Section 6 - Six (6) members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

ARTICLE III

Elections

Section 1 - The Post Commander shall appoint a nominating committee in January. This committee shall present a slate of recommended candidates for officers at the February and March regular meetings. At the regular meeting in April additional nominations from the floor shall be accepted by the general membership.

Section 2 - To be elected to an office, a candidate must be present at the regular meeting at which elections are conducted, or must notify the Post Adjutant in writing prior to that meeting, that if elected, they will accept and serve in the office to which elected.

Section 3 - Elections shall be conducted annually at the regular meeting in April, and officers and other members of the Executive Committee shall take office at the Executive Committee meeting following Department Convention. Elections for a Post position nominated by two or more members shall be by ballot or raised hand vote, and the candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected to the respective office for which they are candidates.

Section 4 - In the event no elected positions have more than one candidate (no positions challenged), a motion may be made to accept the entire slate by acclamation (blanket vote the slate of officers).

ARTICLE IV

Duties of Officers

Section 1 - The Post Commander is the chief executive officer of the Post and whenever possible, shall preside at all meetings of the Post and have general supervision over the business and affairs of the Post. They shall monitor all orders directing the disbursement of funds, and shall make an annual report covering the business of the Post for the year and recommendations for the ensuing year. This report shall be presented at the annual meeting and a copy filed with the Post Adjutant.

Section 2 - The Senior and Junior Vice-Commanders are the principal assistants to the Post Commander, and shall assist the Post Commander as directed in the discharge of his/her duties. In the event of the death, resignation or disability (declared by the Executive Committee to exist) of the Post Commander, The Senior and Junior Vice Commanders, in the order of precedence, shall succeed to the office and have all the powers and duties of the Post Commander.

Section 3 - The Adjutant shall have charge of and keep a full and correct record of all proceedings of all meetings, keep such records as the Department and National organizations may require, render reports of membership annually or when called upon at a meeting, and under the direction of the Commander handle all correspondence of the Post.

Section 4 - The Finance Officer shall have charge of all Post funds and see that they are safely deposited in a local bank, and shall report once each month to the Executive Committee and to the general membership on the financial status of the Post. The Finance Officer is responsible for disbursement of checks. The Finance Officer will create and periodically update a list of approved vendors with whom regular business is conducted regarding the maintenance and service necessary for Post management. These vendors shall include, but are not limited to organizations such as the Colorado Springs Utilities, food and alcohol providers, and Internet Service Providers. The vendor list must be approved by the Executive Committee. Any check disbursed outside the approved list of vendors will require two signatures with another authorized signatory. The Post Commander will assign/appoint authorized signatories for all Post bank accounts. The Finance Officer shall ensure our Post insurance policy includes a rider to protect any persons and the Post with access to any Post bank accounts in such sum as shall be fixed by the Executive Committee for all personnel with access to accounts and the President of the Board of Trustees conducting financial matters for the Post. The Finance officer must be bonded within 60 days of taking office, if the finance officer is unable to be bonded, by default they will be removed from the office and new finance officer will be appointed.

Section 5 - The Historian shall maintain a historical record of events of the Post and of its members and shall perform such other duties as may properly pertain to the office as determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 6 - The Chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Post and its members, and will offer non-sectarian divine services in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, etc., adhering to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by National and/or Department headquarters.

Section 7 - The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order at all meetings, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Commander and Executive Committee.

Section 8 - The Post Service Officer shall be responsible for bringing to the attention of all members and their dependents the rights and benefits available to them by law, and for assisting all veterans and their dependents in applying for such benefits. They must be familiar with laws and regulations governing veterans benefits, and with the services available from The American Legion Department Service Officer and from other community agencies.

Section 9 - The Post Executive Committeeman is a voting member of the Post Executive Committee, which is entrusted with the government and management of the Post. It shall be his/her responsibility to represent the interests of the general membership to the Executive Committee.

Section 10 - The Judge Advocate shall be responsible for auditing Post finances in accordance with the Post Constitution. They shall also be responsible for interpreting the Constitution and By-laws of the Post, and, when called upon to do so by the Commander or other officers of the Post, to rule upon the legality of proposed actions or decisions.

ARTICLE V

The Board of Trustees

Section 1 - The Board of Trustees shall consist of seven (7) members. This membership will include the current Post Commander, the current post Finance Officer (who shall serve as the Board Finance Officer) and five (5) elected members.

Section 2 - No person shall be eligible for election to the Board of Trustees who has not been a continuous member of the Post for at least five (5) years. At least three (3) of the members other than the current Post Commander and Finance Officer must have successfully completed at least one (1) term as a Post Commander of The American Legion, Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209.

Section 3 - The terms of office of elected members of the Board of Trustees shall be three (3) years, except as noted in Section 4. The membership on the Board of Trustees of the current Post Commander and Finance Officer shall end with the completion of their elected terms of office. The terms shall commence on the first day of July and will end on the last day of June for elected members of the board.

Section 4 - Election of members of the Board of Trustees will be at the Post General Election. Nominations will be presented by the nominating committee and from the floor. The Post Adjutant will be responsible for verifying the eligibility of the nominees. At the first election of members of the Board of Trustees, there shall be elected one (1) person for a term of three (3)

years. Two (2) other members will be elected for a term of two (2) years. Two (2) other members will be elected for a term of one (1) year. In succeeding years elections will be held to replace those members whose term is expiring. Those elected in succeeding years will be elected to three (3) year terms. Nominations for any vacant position must be of Past Post Commanders in accordance with Section 2 until at least three (3) members of the Board of Trustees, excluding the current Post Commander and Finance Officer, have been elected.

Section 5 - Vacancies on the Board of Trustees as a result of resignations, death, incapacity, or removal for cause, or other circumstances may be filled by appointment by the Post Commander with the approval of the Post Executive Committee. Appointees under this section will serve only until the next post General Election, when the remaining term of the vacant office shall be filled by election. When filling vacancies, the requirements of Section 2 must be observed.

Section 6 - Any elected member of the Board of Trustees may be removed from office by a majority vote at a Post General Membership meeting. Any member who wishes to remove from office a member of the Board of Trustees will appear at a General Membership meeting and make a motion to that effect. The motion must be seconded. The vote on the motion shall be postponed until the next regularly scheduled post General Membership meeting. The Post Adjutant will notify the member of the Board of Trustees of the pending action and reason for the action in writing. That person will be allowed to speak before the Post General Membership at the next regularly scheduled meeting. The vote shall be at the next meeting whether or not the member of the Board of Trustees against whom the action is pending is present.

Section 7 - A meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held during the first week of July of each year. The time and place of this meeting will be decided by the Post Commander. At this meeting, the Board of Trustees shall elect from among themselves, a President and a Secretary of the Board of Trustees. The Post Finance Officer will be the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. The term of office will be one (1) year for both elected positions. The Board will meet at a frequency determined necessary by the President, to consider such business as may come before it. All meetings of the Board of Trustees will be open to members of The American Legion, Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209. The date, place and time of all scheduled meetings will be published in the Post newsletter and announced at the regular membership meetings. Unscheduled meetings will only be conducted when a special meeting is required to consider business which cannot be postponed until the next regularly scheduled meeting. A minimum of four (4) members must be present to constitute a quorum for all meetings of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE VI

Appointments

Section 1 - The Post Commander, immediately upon taking office each year, shall appoint the following standing committees and shall designate a chairman for each committee:

Program Planning and Social Committee

Welcoming Committee

Membership Committee
Americanism and Youth Committee
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee
Public Relations Committee
Club Committee
Gaming Committee
House Committee

Section 2 - The Post Commander shall be an ex officio member of all committees with voice and vote unless otherwise stated in the constitution and by-laws.

Section 3 - The Post Commander shall appoint such ad hoc committees as may be necessary from time to time to accomplish special purposes.

Section 4 - The Post Commander shall appoint a Legionnaire to serve as the Captain of our Post 209 Honor/Color Guard team. The duties and responsibilities of the Post 209 Honor/Color Guard will be reviewed as necessary by the Executive Committee and approved by the Post Commander.

ARTICLE VII

Duties of Standing Committees

Section 1 - The Program and Planning Committee shall be responsible for planning programs for the Legion year, and preparing and submitting to the Executive Committee both short and long range plans for the conduct of Post activities. This includes, but is not limited to, financial planning and fundraising, securing speakers for Post meetings, and for planning Post observances of national holidays and other significant community events.

Section 2 - The Welcoming Committee consists of two or three members who are asked to take on the job at all Post-sponsored events to welcome new members, guests, or even older members who are not well acquainted, making them feel at home, and introducing them.

Section 3 - The Membership Committee shall be responsible for creating and spearheading projects/ideas to maintain and increase membership of the Post. This includes, but is not limited to, conducting a vigorous recruiting effort, such as actively supporting the Direct Mail Solicitation (DMS) campaign to obtain new members and ensuring the retention of old members.

Section 4 - The Americanism and Youth Committee shall be responsible for inspiring patriotism and good citizenship through patriotic observances, patriotic and civic instruction in schools, and similar activities. This committee shall also be responsible for Post participation in such Legion programs as Boy's State, oratorical contests, and other Americanism and youth programs.

Section 5 - The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee shall be responsible for assisting Post members and other veterans and their families in obtaining veterans' benefits to which they are entitled; for visiting comrades who are sick or disabled; and for keeping the membership informed as to veterans' benefits available to them.

Section 6 - The Public Relations Committee shall be responsible for promoting public interest and support of Post programs and activities through local news and social media, and assisting the publication of the Post newsletter.

Section 7 - The Club Committee will assist the Club Manager in organizing events at the Post home and ensuring schedules are posted for all events supported by the Post. They will assist, create, and maintain the Post Home Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and ensure the SOP is followed by all Post members.

Section 8 – The Gaming Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Games Manager, and such other members not to exceed seven (7) total members. The committee shall monitor the handling and accountability of all funds used and generated through charitable gaming events to ensure proper control and accountability of funds. The Committee will ensure that all BINGO, Pull-Tab, and other gaming operations are conducted following all Colorado Laws & Regulations. Appointment of Chairperson, and Games Manager shall happen on the first executive board meeting following department convention, or following the removal, resignation, or death of the Gaming Committee Chair or Games Manger.

Section 9 – The House Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, and such other members not to exceed seven (7) total members. The committee shall monitor the handling and accountability of all funds used and generated through club events to ensure proper control and accountability of funds. The Committee will ensure that all liquor, food, and hall operations are conducted following all Colorado Laws & Regulations. Appointment of Chairperson shall happen on the first executive board meeting following department convention, or following the removal, resignation, or death of the House Committee Chair.

Section 10 - All Committees, Standing and Ad Hoc, shall be responsible for preparing and submitting to the Executive Committee both short and long range plans for the conduct of Post activities.

ARTICLE VIII

Delegates

Delegates and alternates to District and Department Conventions shall be selected by the Post Commander with concurrence of a majority of the Executive Committee not less than 20 days prior to the dates of such conventions.

ARTICLE IX

Resolutions

All resolutions of state or national scope presented to this Post by a member or reported to this Post by a committee shall be voted upon by the Post. If approved by the Post, they will then be forwarded to the District for its action.

ARTICLE X

Meetings

Section 1 - The regular meeting of the Post shall typically be held at a designated location not less than once monthly at the date and time determined by the general membership. Deviations from this schedule will be publicized.

Section 2 - The Post Commander or a majority of the Executive Committee shall have power to call a special meeting of the Post at any time.

Section 3 - The first General Meeting in May is designated as the annual meeting.

Section 4 - At least twenty-five (25) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business at a regular meeting. Three (3) of the twenty-five (25) must be members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XI

Rules of Order

All proceedings of this Post shall be conducted under and pursuant to Roberts' Rules of Order, except as may be provided by action of the Post Commander.

ARTICLE XII

Limitations of Liabilities

This Post shall incur, or cause to be incurred, no liability nor obligations whatever which shall subject to liability any other Post, subdivisions, group of members of The American Legion, or other individuals, corporations, or organizations.

ARTICLE XIII

These By-laws may be amended at any General Membership meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members in attendance; provided that the proposed amendments shall have been submitted in writing and read at the preceding regular meeting; and provided further that written notice shall have been given to all members at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting a proposal to amend the By-laws is to be voted upon.

These By-Laws of The American Legion, Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 were ratified through the 12 September, 2020 membership meeting.

Attest:

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Joseph A. Schmidt

Commander

12 September 2020

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jerry D. Hopper

Adjutant

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