



The Centennial

Volume XIV
Edition 10

October 2023

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL
POST 209



53 Baby Shower Baskets ready for active-duty servicemembers E-5 and below.

INSIDE:

From the Desk of... (Pages 3-11)

- Hear from your Post officers on the latest news and information

Upcoming Events (Pages 12-16)

- Oratorical Contest
- SAL Safety Initiative
- Whisk(e)y Heritage
- Healing Warriors
- Buddy Time

Fundraiser Information (Pages 17-20)

- Flags for New Citizens
- TBI & Spinal Cord Support
- Walk of Honor
- Room rental

Misc. Information and Articles (Pages 21-22)

- Bringing A Little South to the West
- Salty Dog

Programs for kids and Calendar (Page 23-25)

- Program descriptions
- Calendar of Events

3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917
719.599.8624

www.legion209.org

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

**The American Legion Post 209 Officers 2023-2024**

Commander:	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
Adjutant:	Doug Millison	(719) 599-8624
Sr. Vice Commander:	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
Jr. Vice Commander:	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
Finance Officer:	Jeff Heischman	(719) 482-4357
Service Officer:	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
Judge Advocate:	Marvin Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Historian:	Kurt Skinner	(719) 963-3517
Exec. Committeeman:	Art Kimbrel	(719) 339-4610
Chaplain:	Bob "Odie" O'Donnell	(719) 432-6018
Immediate Past CDR:	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2023-2024**

President:	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
Vice President:	Cathy Barger	(719) 290-3163
Secretary:	Pat Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Treasurer:	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
Chaplain:	Ariel Foster	(719) 281-7965
Exec.-at-Large:	Jackie Bowen	(901) 481-0673
Historian:	Maria Alicea	(719) 900-8426
Sgt-at-Arms:	Michelle Bresee	

**Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2023-2024**

Commander:	Rob Barry	(719) 930-5725
Adjutant:	Bob "Odie" O'Donnell	(719) 432-6018
Sr. Vice Commander:	Chris Hollingsworth	(910) 364-1677
Jr. Vice Commander:	Mike Barger	(719) 290-3218
Finance Officer:	Ken Taylor	(719) 461-4047
Chaplain:	Jim Bird	(719) 231-4928
Sgt-at-Arms:	Tom Foster	(719) 339-2667
Executive Committeeman:	Brian Wess	(719) 528-6672 (home)

**American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2023-2024**

President:	Jerry "Rico" Shay	(719) 244-3901
Vice President:	Sean Cope	(719) 246-4820
Secretary:	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
Treasurer:	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
Sgt-at-Arms:	Joe York	(682) 309-4408
Road Captain:	Scott Laudan	(719) 238-2679
Logistics:	Terry Buxton	(419) 989-9669
Communications:	Chris Cicchi	(719) 493-5897
Chaplain:	Jim Bird	(719) 231-4928



From the desk of the Commander

Thinking back, October brings back quite a few memories growing up. That was when it started getting cold and most times the first snow of the year happened at some point in October. Halloween and once in High School Homecoming are my most vivid memories.

We lived in Alamogordo, New Mexico; dad was stationed at Holloman AFB. Alamogordo was a small town so you didn't have a lot of the worries on Halloween like you did for a bigger city. My brother and I would go out with our friends across the street and next door every year to go trick or treating. It was always a fun time getting dressed up in your costume and seeing what everyone was dressed up as. We would head out without our parents (small town you can do that). The street would be packed with kids going out door to door. What was nice was there was an apartment complex just across the street and we would go over there after we went up and down our street. We normally would use a pillow case as our basket because you could get more candy in it than the buckets the stores sold.

One year after hitting up the apartments and our street we walked to Joey's teacher house because she had let it be known she had a lot of candy. We of course hit up all the houses on our way down there. On our way back, we used a different street that we were not that familiar with and it turned out to be a mistake. We came across some high school kids that were up to no good. They stopped us and we talked with them and before we knew it, they had grabbed Joey's bag and ran off with it. He of course was not happy about it and when we got home, we told our parents what happened. This is where having the pillow case as our basket came in handy. Our parents took some of our candy from each of the bags and took it over to Joey. I think that was the last year that I ever went out trick or treating because dad was transferred to Washington DC and I felt like I was too old to go out. I stayed home and handed out the candy to people instead of mom having to do it.

My other favorite October memory was in High School. That would be High School football games. During the time I was in High School we were lucky enough that our football team was pretty good. My buddy and I would always sit in the student section (of course) because that is where the band sat and it was very rowdy. Homecoming was always a good game. Our school always planned it for when we played one of the schools that was not very good so that we would win the game. Winning always makes the game better and the dance the next day better still. I was more into the game than I was the dance. The only good thing about going to the dance was the slow dances.

Halftime was always one of the best times of the game because that is when we would have our parade and the Queen was crowned. The parade was not very big; normally it just consisted of four floats one from each grade starting with the freshmen float up to the senior float. The floats would line up and then the candidates for queen would come out and find out who won the vote. I did enjoy going to the games especially my Senior year since that was the best year of football while I was there. We went undefeated but then developed a big head when it came time for the playoffs and got beat the first game in; but we still had a good time at the game.

Once again, I thank you for all you do to help veterans and our Post.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





From our Post Adjutant

The next round of renewal letters will be hitting your mailbox shortly. Please watch for anything from the Legion and renew with this notice or go online and renew now. Renewing now online, by mail, or in person will prevent 4 more renewal notices from being printed and mailed (\$\$\$).

Here are a few reminders about the renewal process:

- It is possible to receive a renewal reminder even after renewing due to the processing timeline and print cutoff deadlines.
- If you do not receive a 2024 membership card within three weeks of renewing contact me so I can find out what happened.
- Not all your service periods are printed anywhere, only the earliest one. We have any others that you have reported on file.
- Look at the back of your renewal slip and fill in any missing information like service period, phone number, etc., and make necessary corrections. Return it with your dues.
- If you are renewing online, you can email or mail me the missing or corrected data.
- If you have a MyLegion account you can go there and make those corrections yourself.
- You can renew with me at the Post. I am there most Tuesdays from 0900 to 1400 and during most Friday dinners. Watch the 411 for updates.

A reminder about your membership:

- Renewals for the next year are excepted beginning in July, giving the member 6 months to complete their renewal.
- Your membership year is not tied to your initial entry date.
- American Legion membership is annual, the Legion year being from January 1 to December 31. If dues are not paid by January 1 of each calendar year, the member becomes delinquent. If dues have not been paid by February 1, the member is suspended, but nevertheless a member with no privilege except that of reinstatement by post vote and payment of dues. Dues not being paid, such membership continues for five months, to June 30, at which time the member is dropped from the roll by constitutional mandate and membership forfeited.
- If you miss paying for a year or two it is possible to make that up by renewing now for the missing years, keeping your continuous years of service intact.

Renewals are \$45 and happen here:

<https://legion209.org/209membership/>

<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew#legion-org>

Adjutant, Post 209

3613 Jeannine Dr

Colorado Springs CO 80917

“Always Forward”

Doug Millison
Adjutant





From our Senior Vice Commander

As many of you know, the 2024 Membership Drive is well under way. We exceeded the 50% target date for the year with 58.2% renewed and are doing well, but we need to keep the press on make this another successful year for our Post! If you have any questions or ideas to help the membership drive, don't hesitate to contact me. Also, reach out to your friends and neighbors if they are veterans and invite them to events at the Post. Tell them why you joined; for most people, your reasons will resonate with them.

Be sure to get your renewals in to the Post by October 15th so you can take advantage of the **FREE** Early Bird dinner on Friday October 20th. The menu is Chicken Fried Chicken, mashed potatoes and Kellie's famous green beans with rolls, salad and dessert. The price for guests and non-renewed folks is \$15. Get renewed now and take advantage of your free meal!

See the Join-Renew-Transfer tab in the upper right of the <https://legion209.org> page for renewal options and get your renewal in today!

Steve Hayes
Senior Vice Commander



From the desk of the Unit President

September was a busy month for the Auxiliary, October should be less busy. We will host the Trunk or Treat again this year. We are asking for bags of candy to be donated. This will be our 3rd year doing the Trunk or Treat. We will have gift cards for the Best Decorated Car & Motorcycle. We had a lot of fun last year with DJ Lorenzo playing great music, hot cider, hot chocolate and popcorn!

As always, if anyone would like to volunteer for any event, please let us know. Your volunteer work is what helps make us successful! If you have a daughter, granddaughter, etc. who is eligible for our Junior Auxiliary, have them come in to see what we are all about. We have 2 new young ladies who are pretty active with their wonderful mom Rebekah. I am sure we can start planning events for our Juniors so they can get out into the community. We can host a couple dinners to raise funds for projects they might like to do or to take a field trip to a museum or something fun as well for them.

Thank you to all of our Auxiliary members who put time and energy into making our Unit so successful. You are all amazing individuals.

Happy birthday to all of our members who will be celebrating their special day in October!

Royce Hepper
Unit President
American Legion Auxiliary





From our Chaplain

How to smile in the midst of life's storms ...

This devotional inspired me, and it gave Insight of The American Legion moto, "Be The One!"

by [James Scott, Jr.](#)

"Smiling is not what we usually consider doing when storms rage in our lives.

But being able to smile in the midst of life's storms changes how we weather those storms, all because of *why* we can smile in the face of difficulties and trials.

When life hurls its worst or harshest experiences and circumstances at us, we can find great solace in knowing that God is not only our source of comfort, but *the* source of comfort ...

"All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort," 2 Corinthians 1:3.

There is a story told by Robert Louis Stevenson that can give us a little deeper insight into this verse. Stevenson recounts the tale of a storm that caught a vessel off a rocky coast and threatened to drive it and its passengers to destruction. Amid the terror, one daring man, contrary to orders, went to the deck, made a dangerous passage to the pilot house, and saw the steersman, at his post holding the wheel unwaveringly, and inch by inch, turning the ship out, once more, to sea.

The pilot saw the watcher and smiled.

Then, the daring passenger went below and gave out a note of cheer: "I have seen the face of the pilot, and he smiled. All is well."

As Jesus Christ steers our lives along the Way ("Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life ...'" John 14:6a), sure of His piloting for us, He looks at us and smiles. He knows life has its storms, but He knows who He is as steersman of our journey on the Way. Jesus stated that idea like this ...

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth, you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart because I have overcome the world," John 16:33.

Having yielded the helm of our lives to Jesus Christ and knowing that God is the source of all comfort, we can smile in the face of life's storms, knowing that Jesus will steer us to safe shores, and God will be our source of comfort all along the way."

If you have any spiritual needs (prayer, praises, blessings, death in family, etc.) I am here for you. If you just need someone to talk with for any reason, I am here for you. I don't have to know you or your family. Just reach out to me at bob.odonnell@comcast.net or 719-432-6018.

Bob "Odie" O'Donnell
Chaplain Odie





From our Post Historian



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Lester Alan Hansen (call sign: Buccaneers) born in Durango, Colorado, entered the U.S. Army at Pueblo and was a member of the 170th Helicopter Assault Company, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade. On 13 August, 1969, he was the pilot of an UH-1H Iroquois that crashed on its approach to a mission landing zone at (GC) YA 904 797 in Kon Tum Province, South Vietnam. He survived the crash and another helicopter on the flight moved in to rescue CW2 Hansen and his crew; however, small arms fire forced the rescue helicopter to take off before CW2 Hansen was securely aboard. He managed to grab the landing skid, but as the aircraft gained altitude, CW2 Hansen lost his grip and fell into thick foliage. Extensive air and ground searches were conducted for the next four days without revealing any trace of CW2 Hansen. He was listed as Missing In Action. Hansen's family knew there was a possibility that he had survived to be captured and waited for the war to end. When the war ended, and 591 Americans were released from communist prison camps, Lester A. Hansen was not among them. He was one of roughly 3,000 Americans who were not accounted for. Following the incident, the Army promoted CW2 Hansen to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3).



Today, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Hansen is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, at Fort Logan National Cemetery, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Thank you for your service, Lester. You are not forgotten.



"Carl Sitter was just one hell of an inspiration to us at a time when we were really in big trouble...his skills, his leadership, and his inspiration are the reasons that a lot of us are still alive today."

Quoted by Lieutenant General Stephen Olmsted, who as a young private, had served under Captain Sitter during the Korean War.

Born in Syracuse, Missouri, Carl Sitter moved with his family to Pueblo, Colorado for his father to work at the Pueblo steel mills. Upon graduation from Pueblo Central High School in 1940, Carl enlisted in the US Marine Corps. During WWII, he saw combat in the Marshall Islands and Guam, earning a field commission and the Silver Star for fearlessly exposing himself to enemy fire while leading his rifle platoon when wounded, refusing to be evacuated until his mission was accomplished. This pattern of leadership continued when he once again saw action in the next war. Assigned to the 1st Marine Division in

Korea upon the outbreak of hostilities, Captain Sitter participated in the Inchon landing. By Thanksgiving 1950, he was a company commander tasked with defending a ridgeline at the Chosin reservoir in North Korea. As the 1st Marine Division was being surrounded by over 120,000 Chinese troops, Captain Sitter received orders on 29 November to take “East Hill.” Vastly outnumbered, Captain Sitter’s leadership and courage under pressure over the next several days of brutal fighting earned him the Medal of Honor. The citation reads:

“...Ordered to break through enemy-infested territory to reinforce his battalion the morning of 29 November, Capt. Sitter continuously exposed himself to enemy fire as he led his company forward and, despite 25 percent casualties suffered in the furious action, succeeded in driving through to his objective. Assuming the responsibility of attempting to seize and occupy a strategic area occupied by a hostile force of regiment strength deeply entrenched on a snow-covered hill commanding the entire valley southeast of the town, as well as the line of march of friendly troops withdrawing to the south, he reorganized his depleted units the following morning and boldly led them up the steep, frozen hillside under blistering fire, encouraging and redeploying his troops as casualties occurred and directing forward platoons as they continued the drive to the top of the ridge. During the night when a vastly outnumbering enemy launched a sudden, vicious counterattack, setting the hill ablaze with mortar, machine-gun, and automatic-weapons fire and taking a heavy toll in troops, Capt. Sitter visited each foxhole and gun position, coolly deploying and integrating reinforcing units consisting of service personnel unfamiliar with infantry tactics into a coordinated combat team and instilling in every man the will and determination to hold his position at all costs. With the enemy penetrating his lines in repeated counterattacks which often required hand-to-hand combat, and, on one occasion infiltrating to the command post with hand grenades, he fought gallantly with his men in repulsing and killing the fanatic attackers in each encounter. Painfully wounded in the face, arms, and chest by bursting grenades, he staunchly refused to be evacuated and continued to fight on until a successful defense of the area was assured with a loss to the enemy of more than 50 percent dead, wounded, and captured. His valiant leadership, superb tactics, and great personal valor throughout 36 hours of bitter combat reflect the highest credit upon Capt. Sitter and the U.S. Naval Service.”



Carl Sitter retired as a highly respected Marine Colonel. Only one month prior to his death on 4 April 2000 at the age of seventy-seven, he graduated from a seminary program and planned to minister to the home bound and elderly. Sitter is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He is one of four Pueblo Medal of Honor recipients honored with bronze statues at the Heroes Plaza Medal of Honor Memorial in Pueblo.

Kurt Skinner
Historian





From our Color/Honor Guard Captain

The Honor Guard is fortunate to have personnel that can provide support when requested with Chaplain services, the playing of TAPS on the bugle (live, non-recorded), and the playing of bagpipes. This, along with the team's overall dedication, makes the Post 209 Honor Guard a truly remarkable team. The team will be leading the Post again this year in the Veterans Day Parade on November 4th in downtown Colorado Springs. I also expect at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery Support Committee Meeting on October 17th a request to be made for our support for Wreaths Across America again at Pikes Peak National Cemetery on December 16th.

Want to be part of a great team? The Honor Guard needs to gain more new team members in order to ensure we are able to continue supporting our veterans and our community. Understandably, not everyone has much time to participate in the Honor Guard. In reality, all someone needs are a few available hours: about an hour to participate a night for a training meeting (check the newsletter calendar or the calendar on the Honor Guard website - <https://legion209.org/honorguard209/>) and up to a couple of hours for an event. So around three hours a month for a meeting and just **ONE** event is all you need to make a difference in helping support our veterans and our community. Members of The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion, and The American Legion Auxiliary are all eligible to be members of the Honor Guard with all uniform items provided except Legion family-specific cap and shoes. If you or someone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please reach out to me at: (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org.

Like and Follow "The American Legion Neal Thomas, Jr. Centennial Post 209 Honor Guard" Facebook page. The link is at the top of the Honor Guard website and in the previous paragraph.

Joel W. Haas
Honor Guard Captain



From our Junior Shooting Sports Team

The Young Guns Basic Course provides youth ages 10-18 years old (boys and girls) the opportunity to learn about firearms safety and basic shooting skills. During Young Guns, NRA Basic Rifle Instructors teach the safe handling of firearms, shooting positions (prone, kneeling, and standing), how to zero a rifle, and how to score targets. At the end of the course, the youth have a competition shoot against the others in the course in order to show off the skills they have learned. The Marksmanship Course provides graduates of Young Guns the opportunity to further develop their shooting skills.

The JSSP needs your assistance to continue providing the quality training opportunity to our local youth. **Due to the loss of several instructors over the last couple of years, we need more**

instructors now more than ever. There are three courses required to become an instructor for the Post 209 Junior Shooting Sports Program: NRA Basic Rifle Course, NRA Basic Instructor Training (BIT) Course, and NRA Basic Rifle Instructor Course. In an effort to help reduce the costs associated with taking the courses, an NRA Basic Rifle Instructor Course has been offered a couple of times without the minimum of four students signing up. Another course will be scheduled in early January, with the date to be announced in November. An NRA BIT Course and NRA Basic Rifle Instructor Course are being worked out in coordination with a Post 209 member and local Scouting instructors, with the costs yet to be determined (though expected to be much lower than the standard costs in the area). Please feel free to contact me for more information on what an instructor's duties are for each course, the costs of becoming an instructor, or any other questions you may have about the program. If you think that you might be interested in becoming an NRA Basic Rifle Instructor, feel free to come and observe the Marksmanship and/or Young Guns Courses (see days/times below).

The Fall JSSP courses are currently running with the Marksmanship Course on Wednesdays 4:45pm – 6:00pm, 5:45pm – 7:00pm, and 6:56pm – 8:00pm through November 8 and the Young Guns Basic Course on Thursdays 6:15pm – 8:00pm through November 9.

The Spring 2024 JSSP courses are taking applications for the Marksmanship Course starting Wednesday February 7th (4:45pm – 6:00pm, 5:45pm – 7:00pm, or 6:56pm – 8:00pm) and Young Guns Basic Course starting Thursday February 8th (6:15pm – 8:00pm), with a cost of \$30 per youth shooter for either course. If there is a youth interested in learning how to safely handle a firearm and basic shooting skills, they are invited to sign up for the Young Guns Basic Course. If there is a youth that has already completed Young Guns, they are invited to sign up for the Marksmanship Course. Please go to <https://legion209.org/young-guns/> to download an application, complete the application, and send it to Jesse Wade (jssp209@gmail.com) to sign up for either class. Please feel free to reach out to Jesse or myself (jwhaas.al209@gmail.com) with any questions you may have regarding the Junior Shooting Sports Program.

Like and Follow “Centennial Post 209 Young Guns Shooting Sports” Facebook page. The link is at the top of the Young Guns website: <https://legion209.org/young-guns/>

Joel W. Haas
JSSP Instructor



We Need Some Help!

We are looking for someone with the skills and time to help us build a bench or benches for our trailer. We will provide the material, we just need someone to work with us to build benches along-side the walls of the trailer, or maybe down the middle in an “A-Frame” shape. If down the middle, we’ll want/need to be able to take the benches out when not using it in a parade. If on the sides, we will need to put together with hinges to store them away.

Can you help? If so, please contact our Adjutant, Doug Millison at adjutant@legion209.org





From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

Well, it is that time of year once again. And I am not talking about school or football. It is time to think about changing your batteries in your smoke detectors again.

Your SAL has created a safety initiative program, and this fall it focuses on replacing batteries in smoke detectors. We will come and replace batteries for veterans that have financial or physical limitations, no questions asked. See the flyer in this newsletter edition.

As a firefighter, I can remember many fires that I fought and found the smoke detectors not making a sound. Typically, they are going off while we are fighting the fire, and the occupants are out front. When the smoke detectors were not going off, the occupants were not always found out front. Make sure that is not you, and change your batteries, or reach out to us for help.

Feel free to contact me directly at Colo.rsb@yahoo.com , or 719-930-5725

Rob Barry

Commander

Sons of The American Legion 209



Yum, Yum, Eat'em up!!

Butter Braid Sale Starting October 13th – November 11th. Delivery date will be November 16th. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than November 10th. I will call or email you with the delivery time. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$15.00 per braid. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen, (901) 481-0673 or email jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com,



with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment. Watch for reminder/update blasts to be sent. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

FLAVORS: Caramel Rolls (9 rolls), Apple, Blueberry & Cream Cheese, Cinnamon, Strawberry & Cream Cheese, Bavarian Crème Cheese, and Cherry. Also available are Gluten Free Chocolate Chip cookies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

A poster for an oratorical contest. The background is dark blue with a stylized Statue of Liberty in a lighter blue. At the bottom, there is a waving American flag. The text is white and blue. A white box at the top left contains the text '1st Place Scholarship \$3000'. Below this, the date and time are listed: 'December 2, 2023' and '9AM'. The location is 'Golden View Classical Academy' at '601 Corporate Circle, Golden, CO 80401'. A website URL 'www.colegionoratorical.org' is provided. A short paragraph describes the contest as an academic speaking challenge that teaches leadership, history, and citizenship.

**1st Place
Scholarship
\$3000**

• **December 2, 2023** •
• **9AM** •

**Golden View Classical
Academy**

601 Corporate Circle
Golden, CO 80401

For info on how to participate in the
Oratorical contest:
www.colegionoratorical.org

The Oratorical Contest presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.



SAL



SAFETY INITIATIVE

Sons of the American Legion
Squadron 209 will replace and install
smoke detector batteries at no cost for
veterans in financial need or with
physical limitations

Contact SQ 209:
Rob Barry
719-930-5725
colo.rsb@yahoo.com





Whisk(e)y Heritage Tours

Mailing Address:
2910 N. Powers Blvd., #174
Colorado Springs, CO 80922

Phone:
719-528-6672

E-mail:
WhiskeyTours@gmail.com

Web:
WhiskeyHeritage.com

What: Whisk(e)y Basics Intro & Guided Tasting

Location: American Legion Post 209

3613 Jeannine Drive, Colo Spgs., CO 80917

When: Saturday, 7 October 2023 at 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

What: FUNDRAISER FOR S.A.L. Squadron 209

Informative & Fun introductory overview of the basic fundamentals of Whisk(e)y History, Heritage, Craftsmanship, Distilling, Styles and the basic mechanics of proper whiskey sensory evaluation & tasting with a focus on how to detect & appreciate the characteristics of 3 different major whisk(e)y categories.

You will also learn to use a Whisk(e)y Tasting Glass to experience a guided sensory tasting of 6 selected whiskies identifying major whisk(e)y styles (Irish, Scotch, American/Bourbon)

Who: Brian L. A. Wess is Colorado's 1st Executive Bourbon Steward a Scotch Whisky Ambassador Tutor & Whiskey University Adjunct Instructor certified for knowledge & proficiency in Irish, Scotch & Bourbon Whiskey Styles, actively trained and guided by Master Distillers, Master Blenders & Whiskey Experts around the world for nearly 30 years also having received specialized training to help guide others and expand the appreciation of the Whisk(e)y spirit, its heritage & the dedicated, detailed craftsmanship it takes to produce it.

Length: Approximately 3 Hours

Cost: \$45 Per Person Pre-Pay Registration Required

Limited to No More Than 30 Guests

RESERVE & PRE-PAY:

www.WhiskeyHeritage.com/guided-tastings.html

FREE VETERAN WALK-IN CLINICS

HEALING WARRIORS PROGRAM



Who Do We Serve?

Service Members of any branch, any era,
and their spouses/partners and parents.

Please provide proof of military service, i.e.
DD214, military ID, VA card

What Services Do We Offer?

We are a Registered VA Vendor providing
non-narcotic treatment for pain, PTS, sleep
disturbance, TBI, neuropathy, bladder
weakness and other conditions. Therapies
include Acupuncture, CranioSacral
Therapy, Healing Touch Therapy and
Guided Imagery.



**2ND
SATURDAY**

Denver Pop Up Clinic

VFW Post 1
841 Santa Fe Drive
Denver, CO 80204

**3RD
SATURDAY**

Longmont Pop Up Clinic

VFW Post 2601
340 Lashley Street, Ste 150
Longmont, CO 80501

**4TH
SATURDAY**

Colorado Springs Pop Up Clinic

American Legion Post 209
3613 Jeannine Drive
Colo Springs, CO 80917



Buddy Time

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

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



Our next Buddy Time will be **October 21st, 0900 – 1100.** Looking forward to seeing you there.



FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO “FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A 100% AMERICANISM”?



SPONSOR A U.S. FLAG TO A NEW AMERICAN CITIZEN

for presentation at the next
Citizenship Naturalization
ceremony in Colorado Springs



YOUR \$25 GIFT WILL PROVIDE:

- Made in USA All-weather U.S. Flag
- U.S. Flag Etiquette booklet
- Your sponsor gift note to the new citizen



**Contact Kurt
Skinner Post 209
Americanism Chair
To Sponsor Your U.S.
Flag TODAY!
719-963-3517**



50K on 14 October 2023, raising funds for TBI & Spinal Cord Injury treatment, care, and research. Donate to my ride at runsignup.com/adjutantdoug

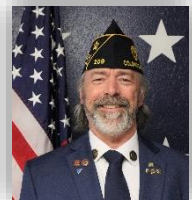
I think we all know someone who has sustained a head or back injury at some point that required expert care, whether it was from an IED overseas or a car accident at home. I happen to know two, both Legionnaires. The care performed by the staff at Craig Hospital both for the injured and for their family is outstanding, and frankly any of us could end up benefiting from their research at some point.

I am joining my Buddy and cousin-in-law Michael from MO Post 626 and his wife in this race because of what they did for him and his after a devastating car accident. He has gone from a quadriplegic to walking and even riding his bike through a 50-kilometer race with the full support of the staff and his family.

Please consider donating directly at <https://runsignup.com/adjutantdoug>, or you can send me an email and pledge a donation by the Kilometer completed. I have only done 20K in training so far, so... The race is on October 14th and all donations must be received NLT the dinner on Oct 20th. My milage will be posted in the October 16th 411 and I will contact the individuals who pledged by the K as well. Think of me during the next membership meeting as my race starts at the same time.

Thank you for your time.

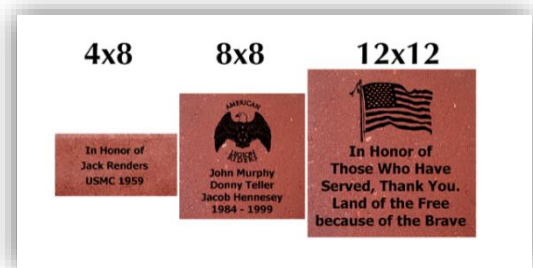
Doug Millison
Adjutant



Walk of Honor



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



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

Celebrate

At
American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

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



Rental Features:

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

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

Starting at
\$350!



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply



Bringing A Little South to the West

Before you read too far into this month's article, just know this is a pretty crappy story.

Did you ever go do your business in an outhouse? I don't mean a port-a-john, that fiberglass structure you can find at most events and construction sites, I'm talking about a real, wooden, mostly dilapidated outhouse. Also referred to as that "Little Brown Building."

With both grandparents living and working their farms in rural Arkansas and miles from the nearest town, if you needed to go and were a boy or man, you either found a tree nearby and out of site of the house, walked to the other side of the barn, or you went to the outhouse. Unfortunately, girls typically didn't have a choice, they went to the Little Brown Building out back and far enough away from the house so the smell emanating from the building didn't reach the back porch.

There was no half-moon carved into the door identifying the building as seen in cartoons, it wasn't necessary. If you got within a few feet, you knew what it was. Most of the time, there was no toilet paper, but there was always a Sears and Roebuck catalog laying next to the hole. I used to think it was for flipping through while doing your "business" until I noticed there were pages ripped out and laying in the hole. Speaking of the hole, the outhouse was a "two-holer." I initially thought it was funny and unnecessary. I NEVER saw two people going in there at the same time. Later I realized the second hole was used when the first hole got full.



There was no toilet seat over the hole, it was just a kind of oval cut hole, similar to a baseball home plate. You didn't raise the seat because there was no seat to raise. And the outhouse was not painted, I don't think the wood was even treated. It was vented because the roof set above the walls about three inches to let the aroma out. Another reason to ensure it set far away from the house.

In the winter it was very cold sitting over the hole, but it helped keep the smell down. But oh my, the summer. It was hot inside the little brown building and the smell was strong. We also got an occasional wasp or dirt-dauber, but even they didn't hang around very long. Both grandparents kept a "pee pot" next to their bed to use at night. The "pee pot" was a steel pot about 10-12 inches in diameter and had a ceramic cover inside and out. There was also a wire handle for carrying the pot. This prevented them from having to walk outside when the mood struck them to "go."

Later, my mother's parents moved just outside of town (Cherry Valley) toward the last of their farming days. The house they lived in had a septic tank, so they had an indoor bathroom. Matter of fact, they had two. But my grandfather had some very strict rules when using their toilet. If you just went #1, you did not flush. You only did it if you went #2. And you used toilet paper very sparingly. They even kept their "pee pot" next to their bed and used it in the evening instead of getting up and going to the bathroom. I always thought that was pretty funny...and a little gross.

See, I warned you this was a pretty crappy story, but believe it or not, it conjures up some nice and interesting “good ole days” memories. Gotta go now. Thank God I have indoor plumbing!

Jay Bowen
Past Commander



Salty Dog

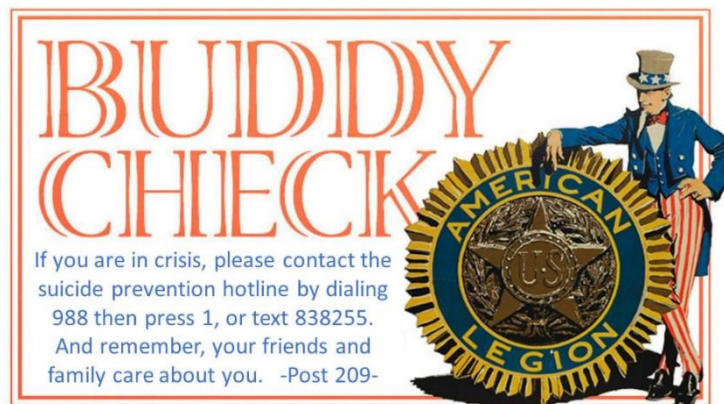
TRADITIONS (Hazing?):

The Navy had a few traditions (normally performed with new boots when they came on board but not always) along with I am sure done by other branches, some of the same but in different forms:

- Sending the new boot to look for 100’ of foul line. The foul line was the line on the flight deck you did not cross or park anything during flight ops.
- One time we needed to move a CH-46 helicopter out onto spot to prepare for launch. We sent the new guy to the Ready Room to pick up the keys so we could move it. He ended up at every shop in the squadron and even up on the bridge looking for the keys.
- Send the new guy down to the engine room because we needed a BT punch. BT was the Boiler Tech rating and worked in the engine room.
- Another time-honored tradition was the tacking on of the Crow. The crow was the affectionate name given to the eagle on the Petty Officer rank insignia. Anyone that was already the same rank or higher could tack (punch) on the crow. This was needed to ensure it did not fly away.

I am sure most of these no longer take place because they would be considered “hazing” in today’s society but they helped to form a bond with the other sailors.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander



PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Young Guns



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

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

Scouting Programs

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



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

Boys and Girls State



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

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

Oratorical Contest



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


























www.colegionoratorical.org



















Eagle Scout of the Year



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

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

October 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	3	4 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	5 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm Ex. Cmte Meeting 6:00pm  	6 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	7 Whisk(e)y Basics 5:30pm \$45/person Must Reserve and Pre-Pay
8	9 Columbus Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	10 Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm 	11 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	12 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  	13 \$15/Person ALR Oktoberfest 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	14 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
15	16 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	17 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	18 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	19 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  	20 Free*/Guests TBD Early Bird Dinner! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	21 Post 209 "Buddy Time" 9:00am - 11:00am 
22	23 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	24 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	25 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	26 Honor Gd. 6:00pm Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  	27 Aux. Sponsored Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	28 Trunk or Treat 3:00pm - 5:00pm Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm  
29	30 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	31 Halloween	Notes: *The Early Bird Dinner is free to Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members who renew on/before 15 and RSVP on/before noon Thursday, 19 October.			

November 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: The Auxiliary will not host the 4th Friday Dinner this month.			1 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	2 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm Ex. Cmte Meeting 6:00pm  	3 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	4 Veterans' Day Parade!
5 Daylight Saving Ends	6 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	7 Election Day	8 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	9 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  	10 Marine Corps. B'day! SAL Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	11 Happy Veterans' Day! Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
12	13 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	14 Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm 	15	16  Venture Crew 7:00pm	17 \$17/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! Turkey Shoot! 	18 Post 209 "Buddy Time" 9:00am - 11:00am 
19	20 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	21 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving!	24	25 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
26	27 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	28 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	29	30  Venture Crew 7:00pm	Notes:	