



# The Centennial

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## AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209



“Be The One” Symposium

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3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917

719.599.8624

[www.legion209.org](http://www.legion209.org)

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



### American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2024-2025

<b>Director:</b>	Sean Cope	(719) 246-4820
<b>Vice Director:</b>	Chris Cicchi	(719) 493-5897
<b>Secretary:</b>	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Jose Martinez	(719) 237-7060
<b>Road Captain:</b>	Scott Laudan	(719) 238-2679
<b>Logistics:</b>	Maria Alecia	
<b>Communications:</b>	Chris Castillo	
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Jim Bird	(719) 231-4928



## From the Desk of Our Commander

According to our Post By-Laws Article IV, Section 1 and Article X, Section 4 the General Membership meeting in May is designated as our Annual Meeting and as Post Commander, I am required to give a State of the Post. This is traditionally given at the Installation Dinner. The following is a summary of the report I will present at the dinner.

Overall, we are doing GREAT! We have actively supported numerous events this past year. We participated in the Colorado Springs Veteran's Day parade, and in the Memorial Day Event at Pikes Peak Veteran's Cemetery with our own Jay Bowen giving the keynote address. We held our second annual 9-11 Remembrance walk at Memorial Park starting at the Veteran's memorial walking around the park visiting the Firefighters and Police memorials. The Auxiliary put on a baby shower for 53 active-duty E-5 and below expectant mothers. We helped the Auxiliary prepare goodie bags to give to the Police departments and added more Fire departments this year. We helped the ALR put together Thanksgiving food baskets so that families in need had something to put on their table for Thanksgiving this past year. We continue to be very active with the Oratorical contest and Boys/Girls State. We sent two contestants to the Oratorical contest and sponsored 18 boys to Boys State and 24 girls to Girls State. We presented 6 JROTC medals to Mitchell High School cadets and 2 JROTC medal to a Doherty High School cadet. We presented 4 ROTC medals this year to UCCS cadets. Our Post hosted the final leg of the Pony Express Legacy Scholarship drive again this past year for the ALR and once again made a record donation for Colorado. We continue to help out veterans in need and our support for the El Paso County Homeless Stand Down along with sponsoring 4 dinners for the Temporary Housing Initiative.

We supported the Honor Flight of Southern Colorado by hosting a lunch prior to the flight departure. We partnered up with the Pikes Peak Honor Bell giving them space to hold their monthly meeting and hosting a fundraiser dinner raising \$5,000 for the Honor Bell. We partnered with Flagship Health, a primary care provider for Medicare-aged veterans.

We are still the largest Post in Colorado with several Post members serving on the District 7 staff and at Department. The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman (Jay Bowen) is a member of our Post and we have a Past National Commander and Former First Lady (Tom & Elaine Bock) as active members. Our SAL Squadron is going strong and growing this year with Squadron Commander Rob Barry expected to be voted in as the Detachment (State) Commander. Our Auxiliary, and ALR are all doing GREAT as well and growing. Our Honor Guard continues to do what it does and is the "go to" Honor Guard in the area. The Junior Shooting program continues to do well and we once again hosted the National Junior Shooting Sports dinner for contestants in town for the National Contest.

This is just some of the things that I will be reporting on at the Installation dinner this month. Come out for the dinner and hear the entire report.

Thanks for all you do to help Veterans and our Post!

*Marvin Weaver, Jr.*  
**Post 209 Commander**





## From Our Senior Vice Commander

As you read this, we should be at 100% membership! We have less than 10 members to go as of this article submission. Great job by everyone who has renewed and brought new members into the post. If you haven't been to the post recently, come on in for Friday dinner or one of our other events and get caught up with your post family! As always, if you have a family member or friend who is eligible to join, bring them to a post function and invite them to join!

*Steve Hayes*

**Senior Vice Commander**



## From Our Interim Adjutant

For those who don't know yet, Doug Millison resigned as Adjutant due to health reasons. I am standing in until after the Department Convention in June, at which time Marvin Weaver Jr, who was elected to his position will carry on until such time as we find someone willing and capable to fill the job. Any volunteers? Doug left a big pair of shoes to fill. I was the Adjutant before Doug but many things have changed and Doug made many effective and efficient changes. Thank You Doug. You are missed at the Post. I hope I will be up to the task.

*Jerry Hopper*

**Interim Adjutant**



## From Our Auxiliary President

Happy May!

We held our elections for our new Unit officers who are as follows:

President: Royce Hopper

Vice President: Michelle Castillo

Treasurer: Kellie Hayes

Secretary: Pat Weaver

Historian: Sean Cope

Sgt-at-Arms: Monalisa Taylor

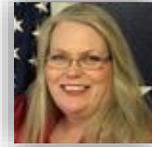
Member-at-Large: Jackie Bowen

Congratulations to our new Executive Board!

Your new executive board will be installed on May 11th at 5:00 PM. We will not have our general membership meeting in May, instead we will have the officer installation followed by dinner. This is open to all members who would like to attend. Watch for an email so you will be able to RSVP for the dinner! If you would like to help set up, cook, serve, & clean after, please let Jackie know when you RSVP for the dinner!

Thank you for being an amazing Unit & thank you for all you do!

*Royce Hopper*  
Unit President  
American Legion Auxiliary



## Chaplain's Corner

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. (Psalm 23:1)

**The Lord cares for and watches over us and provides all that we need.** He is our Caretaker, Shepherd, Overseer, Guidance Counselor, Daddy God, Father, Provider and Giver of all things.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters. (Psalm 23:2-3)

**The Lord brings us rest, peace, and refreshment.** He helps us to be still in His presence so that He can bring peace and refreshment to our soul. The Lord provides strength for our weary heart and enables us to walk forward on our journey.

He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake. (Psalm 23:4)

**The Lord guides us into righteousness so that our lives will glorify Him.** The Lord has given us the necessary tools to live a Godly life. We have His Word and the Holy Spirit is our teacher.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me; (Psalm 23:4a)

**The Lord is close to us in the lowest of times, and we need not fear.** Even though we may walk through dark times, we trust that God is with us even there. It is in those times where we press into Him, spending more time in His presence, letting Him love on us. When we are close to him, all the worldly cares fall off.

your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me. (Psalm 23: 4b)

**The Lord's authority over our life brings protection and comfort.** As long as we are walking in the ways of the Lord, his authority and protection abide with us. When we choose to step outside of His will, then He may remove that authority and protection for a season, but only to draw us back to Him.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies; (Psalm 23:5a)

**The Lord provide's a feast for us, even in the presence of our enemies.** We will have trials, but if we feast on His word, and learn to be still in His presence, it makes walking through those times much easier. We want to feast on His word!!!!

you anoint my head with oil; (Psalm 23:5b)

**The Lord anoints us and sets us apart for service to Him.** We are reminded of Jesus and how he was anointed for burial. When we give our life to Christ, we became dead to our old nature, and alive again in Him. Our old nature has been buried with Christ, and our new nature has been made alive by the anointing and power of Jesus Christ.

my cup overflows. (Psalm 23:5c)

**The Lord provides abundant blessings to us, too many to count!** Our cup is always full. We often don't realize it and tend to look at life as though our cup is half empty. We have so much to be thankful for. He has blessed us abundantly.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life, (Psalm 23:6a)

**The Lord's goodness and unfailing love pursue us all of our lives.** We picture ourselves running down the street, being closely followed by goodness and unfailing love. What does that look like? Oh that Jesus would come and overtake us with His love!

and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever. (Psalm 23:6b)

**The Lord provides a place for us to dwell with him forever!** The best part is, we get to live with God forever!

*Bob "Odie" O'Donnell*  
Chaplain Odie



## From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

Last month, the Detachment CWF banquet was held in Delta, Co. It is a wonderful town located on the western slope. The drive was nice and unremarkable the day prior to the event. It was great to see a small squadron step up for such a large event. The day of the banquet was showing some difficult weather over the pass, making us wonder about attendance. Prior to the banquet we had a Detachment meeting where leading National Candidate Joseph Navarrete attended.

Following the meeting was the banquet at the local Elks lodge. The hall was set up beautifully, the catered BBQ was smelling up the place, and the silent auction tables were overflowing. As the event got closer, we started realizing that the group was mainly Detachment officers. It seemed that the weather might have been a deterrent for that day's travelers.

A small group of SAL members attended this great event. It is not always the number, but energy in the audience. There was a lot of fundraising in the building! The event was a success, and the total is still being tallied.

Squadron 65 in Delta did an amazing job as a smaller Squadron. The point of this article is for you to think about what a larger squadron is capable of accomplishing. We have many events throughout the year from fundraisers, dinners, parades, and conventions. Ask yourself what you can do to make our Squadron great. Without you, we are nothing.

*Rob Barry*  
SAL Commander



## General Safety Note

Colorado Springs Utilities is replacing watermain valves underneath Austin Bluffs and Academy between 14 April and 7 June 2024, which will severely affect traffic for a few blocks around that intersection. For the first half of the period, Academy Southbound will be one lane from Montebello past Jeannine drive with access closed off Academy at American, Betty and Jeannine Drives, along with periodic closures on Academy. During the second half of the period, Austin Bluffs will be completely closed Eastward from Academy.

If you are coming to the Post from the West, turn right on American Drive at the light and proceed to Van Teylingen then to the Post. If you are coming from the North on Academy, turn right at the light on Meadowland and crossover to American Drive at the light across Austin Bluffs. From the Northeast, you can come down Oro Blanco to North Carefree, take North Carefree to Van Teylingen to the Post. From the South or East, turn or cross on North Carefree to Van Teylingen. Bottom line: it is best to avoid the intersection of Austin Bluffs and Academy as well as three blocks around that intersection until construction is complete.



## From our American Legion Riders

This month I'd like to introduce you to four Riders! Christopher, better known as "SixMan" was just elected as the Sergeant-at-Arms for our American Legion Post 209! SixMan has years of experience, and we are glad to have him in the ranks. Michelle also known as "Dudley," was just elected as the new American Legion Auxiliary Vice President and you may have been served one of her delicious omelets at the membership breakfasts. Next in line is Chris "Yayo." Chris can be found behind our bar serving your favorite beverage and behind the computer as the Riders Communication Officer. Finally, we have George. George is this year's ALR Centennial Poker Run Committee Chairman and is doing a fantastic job leading the event and guarantees an exciting time for all! Wizard – American Legion Post 209 Rider Director.



**Christopher Roebuck**

**Road Name:** SixMan

**Branch of Service:** Army

**Hometown:** New Jersey/Alabama

**Family:** Wife, 2 Sons.

**Hobbies:** Mini Trucks, Can Am Spiders, Reading, History Buff

**Motorcycle:** 2019 Can Am Spyder F3T

**A little about yourself:** Started riding at 13 years old, my mom put on my first bike. Honda Rebel 250 after that started with Kawasaki

Ninja 600. Got into Mini Trucking and have owned a 1996 GMC Sonoma since 1996. 3 Times Denver Super Show Mini Street Truck winner. Lost the ability to ride two wheels in 2009 and have been into 3 wheels since 2018.

**Motorcycle:** 21 Road Glide limited.

**A little more about yourself and what brought you the Legion:** Very active...Try to enjoy every day like it's the last day. Really enjoy helping people in the community. What brought me to The Legion is Ed Santos invited me to the ROMP, And I enjoy all we do for the veterans!

**George Sedlack**

**Road Name:** PAPA G, it's my road name from Pikes Peak Spyder Ryders.

**Branch of Service:** Army

**Hometown:** New London CT

**Family:** Kris Joyce (wife), Stephanie (daughter) Sean (son in law) and 4 grandkids

**Hobbies:** ATV's, camping, hunting, photography, traveling to new places.

**Motorcycle:** 2022 Can am Sea 2 Sky

**A little about yourself and what brought you the Legion:** 8+ years active service, Went to HS at JFK in Denver. Also, President of US SPYDERS RYDERS, PIKES PEAK CHAPTER. Joined American Legion and riders' programs to be with likeminded people. To help my community and other veterans. Also volunteer at National mill dog rescue when time permits.



**Chris Castillo**

**Road Name:** Yayo

**Branch of Service:** Marine Corps / Air Force

**Hometown:** Queens, NY

**Family:** Michelle Castillo

**Hobbies:** Riding, gaming, guitar, camping

**Motorcycle:** 23 HD Roadglide ST

**A little about yourself and what brought you the Legion:** Active-duty Air Force stationed at Peterson SFB since Jan 2022. Been riding since 2013 - Sportster 1200, Ultra Limited, ZX-10R, Roadglide ST.

Found out about the American Legion through volunteering at the Stand Down for Veteran Homelessness and got invited to ride with ALR and to the Post 209 by Worldwide.



**Michelle Castillo**

**Road Name:** Dudley

**Branch of Service:** Air Force Spouse



**Hometown:** Harrison, NY

**Family:** Christopher Castillo (Husband)

**Hobbies:** Cooking, camping and I love spending time traveling to different places with my husband and fur babies!

**Motorcycle:** 2023 Honda Rebel 1100

**A little about yourself and what brought you the Legion:** Air Force spouse and GS employee. We got stationed in Dec 2021 in CO. Started riding in 2016 with a Harley Davidson Sportster.

Started riding with post 209 members in March of 2023. Enjoyed

watching the members helping and volunteering. Always enjoyed getting involved with different organizations to help and give back to the community.

*Sean "Wizard" Cope*

Director, American Legion Riders



## From our Post Historian



**David Louis Hrdlicka** entered the U.S. Air Force from Littleton, Colorado and was a member of the 563rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, Takhli Air Base, Thailand.

On 18 May 1965, Captain David L. Hrdlicka was an Air Force pilot flying a Thunderchief F-105D as lead pilot on a four aircraft bombing mission over northern Laos. His jet was hit by ground fire and he was forced to

eject, parachuting into a valley near a village. As his parachute deployed, his wingman watched him descend and saw him captured as he landed. Native villagers gathered up his parachute and led him away captive. He was taken to the Pathet Lao headquarters at Sam Neua. A short while later, a reserve helicopter pilot landed in a neighboring village and learned that David had been turned over to Pathet Lao soldiers. David's capture in Laos was published in a North Vietnamese newspaper, "Quan Doi Nahn Dan". The North Vietnamese broadcast the contents of a letter claimed to be written by David, which was transmitted by Radio Peking as well. Pravda, a Russian newspaper, published a photograph of David. The Defense Intelligence





Agency (DIA) included this report in its agency’s “Post-Capture Photograph” album positively identifying Hrdlicka as the captured pilot. Ivan Shchedrov, correspondent for the Pravda newspaper, interviewed David on several occasions in captivity. David was present at a dedication ceremony in 1969 of a cavern, which was an underground city called Hotel “Friendship” near Sam Neua, where he was seen by two Russian correspondents. There were reportedly live sightings of David in the 1990s. His wife and three children have never received confirmation of his death. None of the nearly 600 Americans lost in Laos has been returned.

While in captivity, the Air Force promoted Captain Hrdlicka to the rank of Colonel. Today, Colonel Hrdlicka is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed along with all his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC. He is memorialized at the Littleton Cemetery.

Thank you for your service, David – You are not forgotten.

**Robert D. Maxwell** grew up with his grandparents in northern Colorado and dropped out of school in 7<sup>th</sup> grade to help support the family during the Great Depression. He was drafted into the Army in 1942, and though he was offered “conscientious objector” status as a Quaker, he chose to enter active duty. He served as an infantryman in the Allied invasions of North Africa and Italy before promotion to Technician 5th Grade and being sent to France with the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, as a noncombatant to set up communications lines for his battalion.



On 7 September 1944, Maxwell and three other soldiers, including his battalion commander, were part of an Allied group liberating Besancon, France. Maxwell was connecting wires for communications onto a house that had become the battalion observation post when they were attacked. Armed with only .45-caliber automatic pistols, the four Americans defended the post against the enemy, who had artillery, machine guns and grenades. According to his Medal of Honor citation, "Despite a hail of fire from automatic weapons and grenade launchers, Technician 5th Grade Maxwell aggressively fought off advancing enemy elements and, by his calmness, tenacity, and fortitude, inspired his fellows to continue the unequal struggle. When an enemy hand grenade was thrown in the midst of his squad, Technician 5th Grade Maxwell unhesitatingly hurled

himself squarely upon it, using his blanket and his unprotected body to absorb the full force of the explosion. This act of instantaneous heroism permanently maimed Technician 5th Grade Maxwell, but saved the lives of his comrades in arms.”

For his actions, Maxwell was presented the Medal of Honor on May 12, 1945, while convalescing from his severe wounds at Camp Carson in Colorado Springs.

Maxwell left the service after the war and dedicated his life to education, establishing various technical programs at high schools and junior colleges in Oregon. He lived a long life and passed away in Bend, Oregon, on May 11, 2019, at age 98 - almost 74 years to the day after he earned the nation's highest honor.

*Kurt Skinner*  
**Historian**



## From our Color/Honor Guard Captain

As with every month, the Honor Guard continues to field requests, sometimes daily, to support Final Honors for local veterans. The team has continued to be busy meeting these requests, sometimes even on short notice. While it is nice being 4 months into the year without having to deny a Final Honors request, I know with the small team of active members we have that it is only a matter of time. Since we are getting ready to go into the summer months, it means team member availability becomes more difficult due to other obligations. Less team member availability has a large impact on the number of requests that can supported. We need a larger team to create a larger pool of members to support requests for Final Honors.

We are still hoping to partner with other area VSOs (DAV, MCL, TAL, VFW – the whole alphabet soup), though it continues to be more of a challenge than one would expect. A mixed VSO Honor Guard is not an issue, and would increase the ability to meet the local veterans and community needs. If you know someone from another VSO that might be interested in being a part of a very important program you can invite them to a General Membership meeting or an Honor Guard meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month at 6:00pm). If nothing else, please provide them with my contact information and we can get any questions answered.

And now for the standard ending of my newsletter article – 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](mailto:honor.guard@legion209.org).

Like and Follow Post 209 Honor Guard” Facebook page. The link is at the top of the Honor Guard website: <https://legion209.org/honorguard209/>

*Joel W. Haas*  
Honor Guard Captain



## From our Junior Shooting Sports Program

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. If you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, neighbor kid, etc. interesting in learning about firearm safety, contact the Post 209 JSSP at: [jssp209@gmail.com](mailto:jssp209@gmail.com)

The Spring 2024 JSSP Marksmanship and Young Guns Basic Courses have concluded. The Awards Night and Pizza Party was held on April 18<sup>th</sup> so that the students’ hard work could be recognized. Eight students completed the Young Guns Basic Firearms Safety Course. The Young Guns awards included an Eagle Eye certificate for a target containing a ‘Bullseye’ and the Top Shot certificate for the highest score out of the class. Ten students in the Marksmanship Course participated in the NRA Marksmanship Qualification Program (MQP) for Air Rifle. The qualification tabs awarded include: 5 Pro-Marksman, 4 Marksman, 4 Sharpshooter, and, as included in last month’s article, the program’s first Expert! Two students participated in the NRA MQP for Air Pistol, both earning the Pro-Marksman and Marksman tabs.

Also at the Awards Night, Ken Taylor’s contributions to the JSSP were recognized. As the last founding member since the Post 209 JSSP was started over 11 years ago (July 2013), Ken has been instrumental in providing youth in our community the ability to learn the safe handling of firearms and marksmanship skills. Thank you, Ken, for all the hard work and the great foundation you provided for the JSSP!

The Fall 2024 Junior Shooting Class flyer has been posted on the Young Guns website. The Young Guns brochure, Basic Course Application (new shooters), and Marksmanship Course Application are also available on the website. It is never too early to sign up, so send in your youth’s application today! The Fall 2024 classes start with Marksmanship on Wednesday September 11 and Young Guns on Thursday September 12.

The JSSP needs Instructors and Range Safety Officers (RSOs) to support the program, ensuring quality instruction and a safe range for the students. The schedule is being looked at for holding

NRA Basic Pistol, NRA Basic Rifle, and NRA Basic RSO Courses sometime later this summer (based on interest and number of student signups). If you are interested in one or more courses, volunteering, or just learning more about the Post 209 JSSP, please email: [jwhaas.jssp209@gmail.com](mailto:jwhaas.jssp209@gmail.com).

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



## Salty Dog

### MANNING THE RAIL:

Manning the rail is a method of [saluting](#) (or rendering honors) used by naval vessels. The custom evolved from that of "[manning the yards](#)", which dates from the days of sail. On sailing ships, crews stood evenly spaced on all the [yards](#) (the spars holding the sails) and gave three cheers to honor distinguished persons. Today, the crews are stationed along the rails and [superstructure](#) of a ship when honors are rendered. The [United States Navy](#) prescribes manning the rail as a possible honor to render to the [President of the United States](#) and for the heads of state of foreign nations. A similar but less formal ceremony is to have the crew manning the rail when the ship is entering or leaving port (traditionally only done when going on deployment and returning). Manning the rail is also the traditional way to honor the [USS Arizona Memorial](#) when it is passed by all U.S. Navy ships in pearl Harbor.



*Marvin Weaver, Jr.*  
Post 209 Commander





## Bringing A Little South to the West

When is a sugar cube not just a sugar cube? When I was in elementary school (second or third grade), a polio vaccine laced sugar cube was given to all elementary school children. To some of you this may sound a little gross, but trust me this was a MUCH better alternative than the annual polio vaccine delivered by needle. Even today, I can't look at a sugar cube without thinking about those vaccines.

Back in the day, all kids starting elementary school had to have a series of vaccines. Unlike today, parents didn't whine about getting this done. It was a rule and I don't know of any parent who was against having it done. We had to get Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (similar to the measles but not as contagious or severe). We also had to have a Smallpox vaccine. All those were one and done, and not required every year as with the polio vaccine. They were just referred to a Booster Shots. Parents showed up on registration day with either proof of the vaccines, or they would be administered by a nurse during registration, along with the sugar cube.

MMR wasn't really considered deadly, although there were some rare and extreme cases, they were just a nuisance and highly contagious. I remember when any of us kids contracted any of those diseases, Mom would make all four of us play together and sleep together in hope we would all get it, and get over it quickly. Normally, unless it was a very mild case, if you got it once that was it.

Another childhood disease was the Chicken Pox. When I was in elementary school there was no vaccine for the Chicken Pox. Like the others, it wasn't necessarily life-threatening, but the itching and red bumps were a little painful. And like the others, once you got the Chicken pox, that was normally it. Or at least until you became an adult and may contract the Shingles. This is the adult and much more painful version of the Chicken Pox. And it's pretty ugly physically and can leave permanent scars on the affected areas. It is not just VERY painful; it is also contagious. Fortunately, there are vaccines for the Shingles, and apparently it is very effective.

By far, the ugliest of all the childhood diseases in my day was polio. Most cases of polio attacked the motor cells in the body through the spinal cord. Not all cases were life-threatening, but too many were. While primarily affecting kids, there were a few cases where adults contracted this horrible disease. One of the most noted victims was President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He contracted polio at the age of 39. This resulted in him being wheelchair-bound for the remainder of his life. Fortunately, while not totally eradicated, it is very rare to hear of a polio case in the US. Apparently, they still offer the vaccine and it has proven to be very effective. According to reports, there are cases of polio victims in many countries around the world that do not offer the vaccine, so I guess this dreaded disease will be around forever.

Well, enough of my rants about diseases and vaccines. I guess I'll take my shingle (pun intended) off the front porch and retire. Maybe I'll buy a box of sugar cubes just for old-time sake.

*Jay Bowen*  
**Past Commander**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **You're Invited**

#### **Investment in Character Luncheon**

**Wednesday, May 1st, 2024 (Noon to 1:45pm)**

#### **Flying W Ranch**

3330 Chuckwagon Road, Colorado Springs, CO 80919

**Hosted by the Pathway to the Rockies Council**

RSVP to Steve Hayes, 719-494-7166 or [hayessteve@comcast.net](mailto:hayessteve@comcast.net). If you cannot attend, but would like to make an Investment in Scouting, visit [pathwaytotherockies.org/#donate](http://pathwaytotherockies.org/#donate). All donations are appreciated. Recommended giving amount is \$250, which is the approximate cost of Scouting for one youth for a year.

Scouting helps youth develop academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, leadership skills, and citizenship skills that influence their adult lives. It helps them try new things and provide service to others. *That's worth Investing In.*

#### **Keynote Speaker**

#### **Rocky Bleier:**

- Scout
- Vietnam War Veteran
- 4x Superbowl Champion



4775 Centennial Blvd. Ste 107  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Rocky Bleier's amazing accomplishments as a Pittsburgh Steeler running back through four Superbowls are even more impressive once you understand the magnitude of dedication and effort he demonstrated in recovering from bullet and grenade wounds to his leg and foot during combat operations in Vietnam. Rocky earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for combat actions and wounds, overcame nerve damage and reconstructive surgeries, and fought successfully to return to Pro Football. At the time of his retirement, he was the Steelers' fourth all-time leading rusher.

Sign up and join the BSA at this  
amazing event and meet a real  
American Hero!



## **PRIMARY CARE FOR SENIORS, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Advanced primary care services  
for Seniors, Veterans and their  
families.

Coordination of care for Veterans  
to ensure you are receiving the  
benefits you have earned.

Social and wellness events to  
connect you with other Seniors and  
Veterans.

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**Contact us today to schedule a tour of  
our Colorado Springs clinic.  
We look forward to seeing you!**



719.733.3131



[flagshiphealth.org/contact](http://flagshiphealth.org/contact)

## **Flagship Health Sponsored Events**

Rocky Mountain Vibes Military Nights Honoring Senior Veterans (free tickets will be available at the Post)

- May 30 – Honoring Vietnam Era Veterans
- June 6 – Commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day, Honoring all senior Veterans and special honors to our remaining WWII Veterans

### Other Events

- May 22 – Will have a table set up at our Healing Warriors event to answer questions about Flagship Health services
- June 8 – CPR and First Aid training at noon immediately following our monthly membership meeting



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



Made with PosterMyWall.com



# The American Legion

## Rocky Mountain Boys State

### A Week that will shape a Lifetime



*"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction... it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation."*

*-Ronald Reagan*

**HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS – Your Future starts here!**  
**YOU can join the nation's premier civics program**  
**developing future leaders in Colorado since 1949**

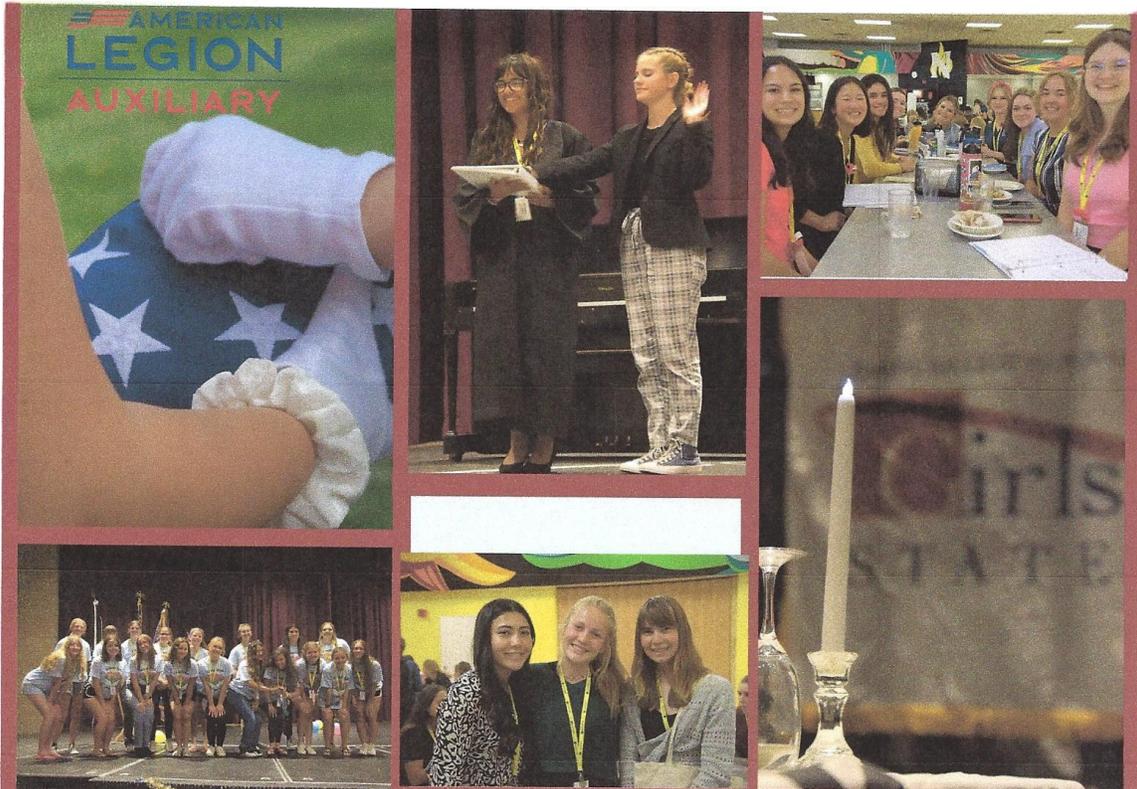
- Build leadership skills AND lifelong friendships
- Fun Action-based learning in Self-Government
- Support and defend our Constitution
- Stand up for America's political heritage
- If selected all tuition costs are included



**June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Sterling, CO**

**Start your application NOW!**

**[www.CoLegionBoysState.org](http://www.CoLegionBoysState.org)**



## THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

JUNE 10-15, 2024, NORTHEASTERN JR COLLEGE, STERLING

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

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

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

For information, visit us at [www.ALAColorado.org/Girls-State.html](http://www.ALAColorado.org/Girls-State.html) or contact your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit.

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



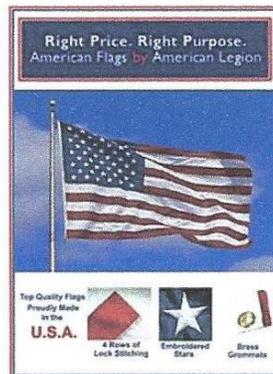
## SPONSOR A U.S. FLAG TO A NEW AMERICAN CITIZEN

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**

**[RoughRiderTR@gmail.com](mailto:RoughRiderTR@gmail.com)**

# Walk of Honor



- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering desired but typically range from \$75 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 \$125 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](http://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 in the area we call the Walk of Honor.
- **How long will this fundraiser effort last?** We plan to continue selling bricks until the Walk of Honor is covered with personalized bricks.
- **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](http://www.legion209.org/contact_us)

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

\*Additional cost may apply

## 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/](http://www.colegionboysstate.org/)
- GIRLS STATE <http://alacolorado.com/girls-state.org>

### 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](http://www.colegionoratorical.org)

### Eagle Scout of the Year



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

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

May 2024							
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1	2 Exec. Cmtee Mtg 6:00pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm 	3 <b>Price Depends on Menu</b> Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	4 District 7 Convention Cripple Creek  Honor Bell Mtng 10:00am 	
5	6 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	7	8 National Spring Meetings - Indianapolis		9 Venture Crew 7:00pm 	10 <b>Price TBD</b> ALR Dinner 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	11 Installation of Officers Membership Meeting 5:00pm  
12 Mother's Day	13 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	14 Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm 	15	16 Venture Crew 7:00pm 	17 <b>\$15/person</b> Chicken Fried Chicken 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	18 Armed Forces Day Female Veterans Social 9:00am-11:00am	
19 Girls State Ice Cream Social 3:00pm-6:00pm	20 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	21 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	22	23 Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm	24 <b>Price TBD</b> ALA Dinner 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	25 Healing Warriors! 9:00am-1:00pm Flagship Health will be available	
26	27 <b>Memorial Day</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	28 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:45pm  	29	30 Flagship Health Sponsored, Rocky Mountain Vibes Event Venture Crew 7:00pm 	31	Notes:	

June 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>  Honor Bell Meeting 10:00am
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>4</b> Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm 	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Exec. Cmttee Mtg 6:00pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm 	<b>7</b> Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>8</b> Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Venture Crew 7:00pm 	<b>14</b> Flag Day/Army B'Day Price TBD SAL Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Father's Day	<b>17</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>18</b> ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	<b>19</b> Juneteenth	<b>20</b> Summer Solstice Venture Crew 7:00pm 	<b>21</b> Department Convention - Ignacio	<b>22</b> Healing Warriors! 9:00am-1:00pm Flagship Health will be available
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>25</b> ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:45pm  	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm 	<b>28</b> Price TBD ALA Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	Notes: Flagship Health is Sponsoring an Event at the Rocky Mountain Vibes game Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Free Tickets available. Flagship Health will be conducting CPR and First Aid Training on 8 June immediately following our membership meeting. No dinner is planned for 21 June. The core team who typically provides the dinner will be at the Department Convention. Boys State is from 2-8 June at Northeastern Junior College. Girls State is from 10-15 June at Northeastern Junior College.					