



# The Centennial

Volume XV  
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December 2024

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL  
POST 209



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

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



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

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<b>Adjutant:</b>	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b>	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b>	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Jeff Heischman	(719) 482-4357
<b>Service Officer:</b>	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
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<b>Historian:</b>	Kurt Skinner	(719) 963-3517
<b>Exec. Committeeman:</b>	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Jim Bird	(719) 231-4928
<b>Immediate Past CDR:</b>	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
<b>Sgt.-at-Arms:</b>	Chris Roebuck	(719) 412-3145



### American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2024-2025

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### Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2024-2025

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<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Chris Roebuck	(719) 412-3145
<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
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<b>Chaplain:</b>	Jim Bird	(719) 231-4928



## From the Desk of Our Commander

I hope to see you all at the 14 December Army-Navy Game (1pm) and Christmas Holiday Party (3pm) at the post! Remember we are having the party in lieu of the monthly membership meeting in December. The next breakfast/membership meeting will be 11 January and we will be back on our regular schedule at that time.

As we move further into the holiday season, I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy season and urge you to enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation! Thank you for your service as well as your daily dedication to our mission and the four pillars. This is a time to remember all those who served and to focus our time on, as well as share our time with, family and friends. Please make the most of that time!

I am very happy to announce that we have pretty much wrapped up the audio-visual and network upgrade in our post home. We are now able to push Dish or other streaming services throughout the post, to include the kitchen, game room, lounge and patio. We also now have a 65-inch digital sign in the window facing the parking lot. This allows us to publish our past and upcoming activities publicly in addition to internally using the displays previously installed in the entry and serving areas of the post. We now have network drops in each meeting room for web-based presentations in addition to the web camera, power and display connections. Our first event using the new display capabilities will be the Army-Navy game! Thanks again to everyone that has donated to or assisted with the effort so far. This has added a significant capability to our post facility to the benefit of membership and to our facility rental appeal.

Come on by and check it all out! See you at the Post!

*Steve Hayes*  
Post Commander





## From Our Adjutant

Let me be one of the first to say Merry Christmas! We will not be having the General Membership Meeting or any of our Friday dinners this month as is our normal for December. This allows our volunteers time to spend with their families. The one event we will be having this month (well actually two) will be our annual Post Christmas Party. The Christmas Party will be on Saturday, December 14 starting at 3pm and it is a pot luck dinner. Rumor has it we have a special guest that will also be joining us. The other event is on the same day starting at 1pm which will be the Navy/Army game. Come out early for the Christmas Party and join us in rooting for Navy and if you must I can let you root for Army.

Renewals have been going good but will still have a few of you out there that have not renewed yet. Just a reminder that if you have not renewed your membership expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>. I am in the office on most Mondays from 9:30 – 3:00. If you want to come by and talk with me or bring your renewal to the Post you can do so at that time. With the AV upgrades Steve and his team have been doing I now have a monitor for the security cameras and we have a ring doorbell installed so just ring the bell when you come and I will be right down to let you in.

I hope to see you at the Christmas Party and want to thank for all you do to help Veterans and the Post.

*Marvin Weaver, Jr.*  
Post 209 Adjutant



## From Our Senior Vice Commander

We are tracking right on glide slope for membership so far this year. As of 21 November, we have 717 members current through 2025 with a goal of 1088. We met our November goal of 65%. The next goal is 75% in December. Please check your member card. If it doesn't show 2025, please get your renewal in! 2024 membership expires 31 December and you lose access to member resources other than renewal after a short grace period following that date. We've made renewal easy – just go to <https://legion209.org/209membership/> for the Join, Renew and Transfer links. If you have any questions or ideas to help the membership drive, don't hesitate to get in touch with Adjutant Marvin Weaver Jr., Senior Vice Commander Jerry Hopper or Commander Steve Hayes. Also, reach out to your friends and neighbors if they are veterans. Tell them why you joined and share what we do for our Veterans and our community!

*Jerry Hopper*  
Sr. Vice Commander





## From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

As the year draws to a close, December offers us a time to reflect on our accomplishments and renew our commitment to service and fellowship. This month, our squadron is focused on spreading holiday cheer and making a difference in the lives of those who serve and their families. Building on the momentum from recent successes, we look forward to continuing our efforts through meaningful programs, community engagement, and fundraising events. Together, let's close out the year with the same dedication and camaraderie that defines the Sons of the American Legion.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we remain dedicated to seeking out and participating in meaningful occasions to commemorate. These events will hold a special place in our hearts as we continue to honor the brave men and women who have selflessly served our great nation.

December is a month filled with reflection, honor, and celebration as we recognize pivotal moments in our nation's history and the incredible contributions of those who serve. Here are the important dates we commemorate this month:

### December 1: Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday

Founded on December 1, 1941, just days before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) has been a vital component of our national defense and emergency response efforts. As the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, CAP members have played a crucial role in disaster relief, aerospace education, and mentoring future leaders.

### December 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

On December 7, we remember the tragic attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, which propelled the United States into World War II. Dubbed "a day which will live in infamy" by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, this somber anniversary honors the 2,403 Americans who lost their lives and the resilience of a nation united in the face of adversity.

### December 13: U.S. National Guard Birthday

Celebrating its 387th year, the U.S. National Guard traces its roots back to 1636, making it the oldest military organization in the United States. Serving as both a state and federal force, the National Guard continues to protect and defend our nation during times of crisis and natural disasters.

### December 17: National Wreaths Across America Day

On this day, volunteers across the nation lay wreaths at the graves of fallen veterans as a gesture of honor and remembrance. National Wreaths Across America Day reminds us of the importance of remembering those who served and teaching future generations about the value of freedom.

### December 20: U.S. Space Force Birthday

Established on December 20, 2019, the U.S. Space Force is the youngest branch of our armed forces. It plays a critical role in securing the space domain and ensuring the safety and advancement of U.S. interests beyond our atmosphere.

### December 28: Anniversary of the Army Chaplain Assistant

First established on December 28, 1909, the role of the Army Chaplain Assistant has been to support

chaplains in providing spiritual care and counseling to soldiers. This anniversary honors their dedication to the moral and emotional well-being of our troops.

I am filled with excitement as we look ahead to 2025 and all the opportunities it holds for our squadron. I challenge every member to take a more active role in participating in and supporting meaningful occasions of commemoration. These events provide us with powerful opportunities to strengthen our connection to the brave men and women who have selflessly served our great nation.

As we close out this year, let's reflect on the history, sacrifice, and service these commemorations represent and recommit ourselves to honoring their legacy. With greater engagement in 2025—through increased attendance, volunteerism, and enthusiasm—we can ensure that our squadron's dedication shines brighter than ever. Together, we can build a stronger community and make a lasting impact in the year to come.

For God and Country,

*Chris Hollingsworth*  
SAL Commander



## From our Post Historian

In our nation's military history, the month of December has often presented, as Thomas Paine phrased it, "times that try men's souls." American prospects looked dim in December 1776, as General Washington's ragged Continental army was in retreat, having endured months of crushing defeats; the majority of army enlistments were due to expire at year's end. By order of General Washington, Paine's stirring words from *The Crisis* were read to the men:



*These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he who stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet...the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.*

In the late hours of Christmas day 1776, General Washington's 2400 American troops crossed the icy Delaware River to launch a successful surprise attack on Hessian forces at their winter quarters in Trenton, NJ. Though only a modest military victory, it nonetheless provided a critical morale boost to the American cause, and enabled Washington to persuade his men to extend their enlistments another month.

The 20th century also presented many soul-trying December episodes in American military history.

Perhaps the most notable was "a date which will live in infamy." On 7 December 1941, after months of secret preparation, Japanese carriers launched hundreds of dive bombers in a "dastardly attack" on the American naval and air base at Pearl Harbor, killing 2403 Americans, damaging or destroying 21 U.S. ships and over 300 aircraft. Within 24 hours, Japanese forces conducted an extensively coordinated attack on British and American bases throughout the Pacific Theater. Days later, Hitler also declared war on the

United States, and America suddenly found itself in a global conflict with two of the most formidable military powers on Earth.



Three years later, on 16 December 1944, as Allied forces were confidently looking to advance into Germany, Hitler's Panzers launched a surprise counteroffensive in the densely forested Belgian Ardennes region, creating a "bulge" (salient) in Allied lines. The six-week "Battle of the Bulge" was one of the deadliest American battles of WWII, resulting in over 90,000 U.S. casualties.

By mid-October 1950, the Korean War seemed all but over, as United Nations (predominantly American) forces had nearly destroyed the communist Korean People's Army and advanced through the North. In early December 1950, however, American military gains in the Korean War were dramatically erased, ending hopes of an early victory and reunification of the peninsula. Vastly outnumbered by an influx of six Chinese divisions at the "Frozen" Chosin Reservoir, the 1st Marine Division (U.S. X Corps) conducted a heroic fighting withdrawal in brutal sub-zero conditions. Seventeen Medals of Honor were awarded to members of the "Chosin Few."

In December 1969, President Nixon announced that because of his "Vietnamization" plan to decrease U.S. troop presence, the war in Vietnam was "reaching a conclusion." As the war continued three years later, Nixon ordered a massive B-52 bombing campaign (Linebacker II) over North Vietnam in December 1972. Derided by critics as "Christmas bombings," the campaign prompted a ceasefire and the negotiated U.S. troop withdrawal from Vietnam in 1973.

Enough of the "soul-trying" stuff – let's look at some encouraging December history now!

In December 1943, Past National Commander Harry Colmery was tasked with drafting the blueprint for comprehensive post-war veterans' assistance legislation. Colmery's hand-written draft on Mayflower Hotel stationery, displayed today at The American Legion headquarters in Indianapolis, formed the basis for what would become the 1944 Servicemen's Readjustment Act, popularly known as the "G.I. Bill of Rights."

The modern aviation age was born on 17 December 1903, when Orville and Wilber Wright successfully piloted the first heavier-than-air, controlled powered aircraft at Kitty Hawk, NC.

As the commander of NASA's final lunar mission, Apollo 17, Navy Captain Gene Cernan became the last human to set foot on the surface of the moon on 13 December 1972.

The Continental Air Defense Command Center (later NORAD) in Colorado Springs, employing its network of early warning radars, first started tracking Santa's Christmas eve toy delivery missions on 24 December 1955.

Christmas blessings to Post 209!



*Kurt Skinner*  
Post Historian





## From Our Auxiliary President

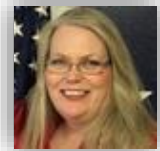
Happy Christmas!

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving and are ready for Christmas now! Christmas is my most favorite holiday! I love the feeling of warmth, spending time with family, the food & goodies, all of the lights and colors! It is magical and I hope you feel that magic as well.

As a reminder, there will not be a general membership meeting in December nor will there be any Friday night dinners. We will have the Christmas party with our annual potluck dinner on December 15th! If you plan to bring a child between the ages of 0-12, please send Jackie their name, age, and gender. Also, we ask that you bring a new, wrapped gift for them with their name on it, (just a small gift nothing expensive please) so Santa can give it to them during his visit.

Happy birthday to all of our members celebrating their special day in December!

*Royce Hopper*  
**Unit President**



## From our Color/Honor Guard Captain

The Post 209 Honor Guard had a couple of big events scheduled in November. The first event was the Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade. Unfortunately, the major snow event the week leading up to the parade necessitated the Post withdrawing from the parade out of concerns for safety. The Post 209 Honor Guard also had the honor and privilege to provide the Final Honors for a dear friend of the Post, Robert "Bobby" Rydell. The service was held at Pikes Peak National Cemetery on Wednesday November 20, 2024. Eleven Honor Guard team members provided Full Final Honors, which included: seven rifles firing three rifle volleys, live TAPS, and the folding/presentation of the American Flag to Bobby's mother, Helen (also a Post 209 member). As part of our custom when performing Final Honors, the Honor Guard presented three expended rounds to Bobby's mother (and also to Bobby's siblings) that were engraved with DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY to signify the three rifle volleys and the Veteran's dedication to Duty, Honor, Country. As an Army veteran, Bobby lived up to those three important words in ways that few people ever achieve. Bobby was an inspiration to many of the Post Family members, always there to help in any way he could, and will be always fondly remembered.

There is a lot happening on Saturday December 14, 2024: Wreaths Across America in the morning, the Army/Air Force game (Go Army!) starting at 13:00 (1:00pm for the Air Force 😊), and the Post Annual Holiday Potluck and Christmas Party starting at 15:00 (again, 3:00pm for the Air Force). As usual, the Honor Guard will be supporting the annual Wreaths Across America



ceremony at Pikes Peak National Cemetery by providing the Rifle Volleys and the playing of TAPS. The event starts promptly at 9:00am on Saturday December 14, 2024. With everything going on, people are obviously quite busy that day. Still, I hope everyone can make it out to PPNC for such an important and rewarding event.

The American Legion Neal Thomas, Jr. Centennial Post 209 is the largest post in the Department of Colorado, the most active post in the Pikes Peak Region (and probably Department), and (in my biased opinion) the best post in The American Legion. There are many very active posts across the nation, but how many posts right now can state, in addition to the so many programs being supported (too many for Post 209 to list), that they have as part of their active membership a: Past National Commander (Tom Bock); Past National Chaplain (Stan Hamamoto); and a Future National Commander (Jay Bowen; if he “doesn’t screw up and stays out of trouble”). While the Post 209 membership also has a lot of Post, District, Department, and National level participation and is well known in the community, one thing is lacking from the Post’s history – a Color Guard entry at the National Convention. We have tried in the past to put together a Color Guard to take to the National Convention, but have not received enough interest or support from the Post 209 membership. Out of a Post Family with somewhere around 1,200 members, we need a minimum of four members (preferably five) to submit a Color Guard for the competition. If the members are all Legion members, the Color Guard could compete to become the National Commander’s Color Guard. This is something that multiple posts have done repeatedly over the years (e.g., Newport Harbor Post 291 for the past 4 years straight), yet we have not tried even once. There would be a lot of hard work involved, but after watching many of the videos of the past competitions, I know we have the capability to beat them. There are at least a dozen (most likely more than twice that) Post 209 members that I personally know of with the capability and drive to make it happen. While Tampa Bay (2025) would be a stretch, it still could be possible. Louisville (2026) and Kansas City (2027) are definitely within reach. Are there at least three or four Post 209 members willing to give it a try? Imagine how cool it would be for the Post 209 Color Guard to present newly elected Jay Bowen’s colors in Louisville. Please reach out and let me know, nothing can ever happen without at least having some discussion.

As we close out the year, the Honor Guard wishes the members of the Post 209 Family a joyful holiday season and a very Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoys time with their family and friends. We look forward to seeing everyone next year and continuing to provide our support as much as possible.

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, credentialed National Rifle Association (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. Both courses have a credentialed NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO) overseeing the range and ensuring all activities are conducted safely and in accordance with the JSSP Range Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). 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 Fall 2024 classes have concluded with the Awards Night and Pizza Party on November 21 (delayed due to weather). It was a great opportunity to celebrate everyone's accomplishments. The following students graduated from the Young Guns Course (results from the competition):

1. Erin (Top Shot, Eagle Eye)
2. Vincent (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)
3. Romell (3<sup>rd</sup> Place)
4. Romeo (4<sup>th</sup> Place)

Fall 2024 Marksmanship students earned the following awards:

1. Logan – Sharpshooter
2. Peyton – Pro-Marksman, Marksman

The annual JSSP Turkey Shoot was held on Friday November 22, 2024 following the Post Holiday Dinner. Since this article is due for submission prior to the event, the results will be reported in next month's newsletter article. I am quite sure that all participants had a great time, as usual.

The Spring 2025 classes will start on Wednesday February 5, 2025 (at 4:45pm, 5:45pm, and 6:45pm) for the Marksmanship Course and Thursday February 6, 2025 (at 6:15pm) for the Young Guns Course. The courses will run every week for 10 weeks, ending with the Awards Night and Pizza Party on Thursday April 10, 2025 at 6:00pm. The updated course flyer has been uploaded to the Young Guns webpage.

The JSSP still needs Instructors, RSOs, and Volunteers to support the program to ensure the continuation of quality instruction and a safe range for the students taking part in the program(s). Recently, a National Rifle Association (NRA) Basic Range Safety Officer (RSO) Course was held and there are now six new RSOs available for the JSSP and Crew 762 programs (James Bird, John Foley, Paul Li, Valerie Stephens, Kevin Thum, and Darren Tidwell). There will be a JSSP Volunteer Meeting Wednesday December 4 at 6:00pm. Those interested in finding out more about the program are encouraged to attend.

The next NRA Basic Rifle Course is tentatively going to be scheduled in early January 2025. The course is open to those at least 16 years old and legally able to own/possess a firearm. All materials, lunch, facility use, etc. are included in the course costs.

- \$50 for all “youth” 20 years and under;
- \$60 for Post 209 JSSP volunteers and Post 209 Legion Family members;
- \$90 for local junior shooting program volunteers and local Legion Family members; and
- \$120 for general public, if there are any openings remaining.

The planning for a future NRA Basic Pistol and NRA Basic Range Safety Officer Courses is also in the works for after the first of the year, more details to come when more is known.

If you are interested in the NRA Basic Rifle Course, volunteering, or just learning more about the Post 209 JSSP, please email: [jwhaas.jssp209@gmail.com](mailto:jwhaas.jssp209@gmail.com).

As we close out the year, the Instructors and Volunteers of the Post JSSP wishes the members of the Post 209 Family a joyful holiday season and a very Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoys time with their family and friends. We look forward to seeing everyone next year.

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

### FORECASTLE (FOCSLE):

The fo’c’s’le or forecastle is the forward deck of the ship. It derives its name from sailing ship days when the raised forward deck was known as the forecastle. This was typically a raised, castle-like structure where archers first could engage enemy ships. The anchoring gear or ground tackle (mooring lines) may be seen here.



*Marvin Weaver, Jr.*  
Post 209 Adjutant





## Bringing A Little South to the West

Back in the day, 14 year old kids could get a motorcycle permit. I, like thousands of other kids that age was obsessed with the idea of being able to legally ride the winds on those 2-wheeled machines. I don't know if it was the power of the motorized bikes, the feeling of the wind blowing through our hair, or the girls who LOVED bikers that made the obsession strong. Or maybe it was just a combination of all of those things.

When I was 14, I had a buddy, Tony Mahoney with a Honda S90. To us, that was the perfect machine. It was cool-looking, it was not that expensive as motorcycles go, and it was fast for a bike that size. I had asked my Dad to buy me one, but as usual his response was typically, "Boy, I'd rather live next door to someone with a motorcycle than to have one in my driveway." That was translated into "We can't afford to buy something frivolous" and/or "You'll kill yourself on those things." So, I had to be content to ride on the back of my buddy's S90 (yeah, I know there's a term for that, but it doesn't belong in this article).

One late afternoon/early evening several of us was at a Basketball game at our school. Tony was there also, as was his ride. We got bored and decided to take off and find some adventure somewhere else in the neighborhood. Tony wore a helmet, but there was not one for me. As we were leaving, a car ran a stop sign. The driver didn't see us, but we saw her...a little too late. Because we were just leaving the school, thank God we weren't going very fast. We hit her car on the passenger side near the front quarter panel. Tony flew over the car after glancing off her windshield. I was slammed into the front passenger side door area. Fortunately, neither of us was seriously hurt. Just as I was about to hit the car, I turned to my right bearing the brunt of the impact to my left shoulder and side. I don't think my head even hit the car...or at least I don't remember it happening. The Bike was totaled, but thankfully we both were able to walk away. Yeah, we were bruised, scratched, and hurt, but it could have been a lot worse.

I don't remember how I got home. I think I walked, which is how I got to the school in the first place. By the time I arrived, my left shoulder and side was hurting pretty bad. As I walked in the door, Mom immediately noticed something was wrong. I'm guessing she could tell from the painful look on my face, and maybe the tears in my shirt and black marks from the asphalt also gave her a clue. She asked what was wrong, and I explained what happened through tears of pain. She said Dad was on his way home from work so she had me lay on the couch. When Dad walked in the door, Mom told him I had some news. I don't know which hurt worse, the accident or telling Dad what happened. As my story ended, he just looked at me and said, "So, do you still want one of them iron horses?" I sheepishly replied, "Absolutely!" That was a lie and I think he knew it.

Mom took me to the Emergency Room and after X-Rays, they determined I just had some bruises. I had to wear my left arm in a sling for a couple of weeks, which was okay. It was like having battle scars.

That ended my great love affair for motorcycles. I still admire them, but from afar. I have ridden the occasional dirt bike on ranches and farms, but there's not much danger of a car pulling out in front of me in a pasture or a field. I also love to ride 4-wheelers, again off-road.

I pray all my buddies who ride will be VERY careful and always ride with a helmet for themselves and anyone who is riding with them. Hopefully, God will watch over all of them as He did with me and Tony.

*Jay Bowen*  
Past Commander



## UPCOMING EVENTS

# 3 GUN RAFFLE

American Legion 209 Auxiliary #2024-19157  
Benefitting Veterans through  
American Legion Post 209

Choose your order of preference on your ticket stub

### CHOICE #1

- CZ Scorpion 9mm
- Folding stock
- Rear flip ghost ring/front post sights
- 2 magazines
- Cleaning kit and case
- Safety lock



Folded view

### CHOICE #2

- G-FORCE GFY-1
- 12 gauge
- 1 magazine
- 2 chokes w/choke tool in case
- MBUS flip-up sights



3 chances  
per \$20  
ticket

### CHOICE #3

- Remington 700
- 30-06
- Camo Stock
- Extra black stock
- Scope rail
- Hard case



Need not be present  
to win

Drawing to be held on December 14, 2024 at the American Legion Post 209 Christmas party  
@ 5pm at American Legion Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs  
If winners cannot pass the background check, firearms will remain with American Legion Post 209.

## Tips for Confronting a Veteran in Crisis!

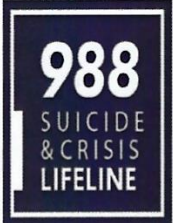


**ASK A FELLOW VETERAN  
CARE FOR A FELLOW VETERAN  
EMBRACE A FELLOW VETERAN**

Always ask questions 1 and 2.	Past Month	
1) Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up?	Yellow	
2) Have you actually had any thoughts about killing yourself?	Yellow	
If YES to 2, ask questions 3, 4, 5 and 6. If NO to 2, skip to question 6.		
3) Have you been thinking about how you might do this?	Yellow	
4) Have you had these thoughts and had some intention of acting on them?	High Risk	
5) Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Did you intend to carry out this plan?	High Risk	
Always Ask Question 6	Life-time	Past 3 Months
6) Have you done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life? <i>Examples: Took pills, tried to shoot yourself, cut yourself, tried to hang yourself, took out pills but didn't swallow any, held a gun but changed your mind or it was grabbed from your hand, went to the roof but didn't jump, collected pills, obtained a gun, gave away valuables, wrote a will or suicide note, etc.</i> If yes, was this within the past 3 months?	Yellow	High Risk

If YES to 2 or 3, seek behavioral healthcare for further evaluation. If the answer to 4, 5 or 6 is YES, get **immediate help**: Call or text 988, call 911 or go to the emergency room. **STAY WITH THEM** until they can be evaluated.

Download Columbia Protocol App





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

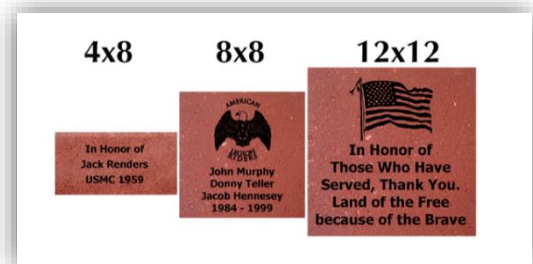
Contact SQ 209:  
Rob Barry  
719-930-5725  
colo.rsb@yahoo.com



Made with PosterMyWall.com

## 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 [www.alacolorado.org/girls-state](http://www.alacolorado.org/girls-state)

### 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/>

# DECEMBER 2024

For the most current version see:  
[https://www.legion209.org/coming\\_up/](https://www.legion209.org/coming_up/)

December 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	3	4	5 Exec. Cmtee Mtg 6:00pm 	6	7  Honor Bell Meeting 10:00am
8	9 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	10 Honor Gd. Trng  6:00pm	11	12	13	14 Wreaths Across America - 9:00am Family Christmas Party 3-5pm Army/Navy Game!
15	16 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	17	18	19	20	21 Start of Winter
22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28 Healing Warriors! 9:00am-1:00pm Vets Helping Vets
29	30	31	Notes: <b>Note: We will not serve dinners this month to give our support staff time to spend with family.</b>			

January 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> New Year's Day <b>Happy New Year!</b> 	<b>2</b>  <b>Venture Crew</b> 7:00pm Ex. Cmte Meeting 6:00pm 	<b>3</b> <b>Price Depends on Menu</b> Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	<b>4</b>  Honor Bell Meeting 10:00am
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>Venture Crew 7:00pm</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Price TBD</b> SAL Dinner 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	<b>11</b> Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>14</b> Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>Venture Crew 7:00pm</b>	<b>17</b> <b>\$15/person</b> Chicken Fried Chicken 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Matin Luther King Day!</b>	<b>21</b> ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  	<b>24</b> <b>Price TBD</b> Department Mid-Year - Ft. Collins ALA Dinner 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	<b>25</b> Healing Warriors! 9:00am-1:00pm Vets Helping Vets
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>28</b> ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:45pm  	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>Venture Crew 7:00pm</b>	<b>31</b> <b>Price TBD</b> Troop 77 Fundraising Dinner 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b>	Notes: