



The Centennial

Volume XVI Edition

1

January 2025

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209



Members of Post 209 family delivering “Goodie Bags” to Police Sub-stations, including SWAT.

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3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917
719.599.8624

www.legion209.org

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



The American Legion Post 209 Officers 2024-2025

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Commander: | Steve Hayes | (719) 494-7166 |
| Adjutant: | Marvin Weaver, Jr. | (719) 244-3535 |
| Sr. Vice Commander: | Jerry Hopper | (918) 953-9980 |
| Jr. Vice Commander: | Bobby Senter | (719) 660-3775 |
| Finance Officer: | Jeff Heischman | (719) 482-4357 |
| Service Officer: | Brian Murphy | (719) 930-4147 |
| Judge Advocate: | Stan Hamamoto | (719) 322-6959 |
| Historian: | Kurt Skinner | (719) 963-3517 |
| Exec. Committeeman: | Lino Calica | (719) 963-0956 |
| Chaplain: | Jim Bird | (719) 231-4928 |
| Immediate Past CDR: | Marvin Weaver, Jr. | (719) 244-3535 |
| Sgt.-at-Arms: | Chris Roebuck | (719) 412-3145 |



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2024-2025

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--|
| President: | Royce Hopper | (918) 953-9993 |
| Vice President: | Michelle Castillo | Mikamish84@yahoo.com |
| Secretary: | Pat Weaver | (719) 638-4763 |
| Treasurer: | Kellie Hayes | (719) 494-7167 |
| Chaplain: | Pricilla O'Donnell | (719) 290-9130 |
| Exec.-at-Large: | Jackie Bowen | (901) 481-0673 |
| Historian: | Sean Cope | (719) 246-4820 |
| Sgt-at-Arms: | Monalisa Taylor | monalisahugo@gmail.com |



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2024-2025

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Commander: | Chris Hollingsworth | (910) 364-1677 |
| Adjutant: | Jim Bird | (719) 231-4928 |
| Sr. Vice Commander: | Rob Barry | (719) 930-5725 |
| Jr. Vice Commander: | Jeff Heischman | (719) 482-4357 |
| Finance Officer: | Ken Taylor | (719) 461-4047 |
| Chaplain: | Bob "Odie" O'Donnell | (719) 432-6018 |
| Sgt-at-Arms: | Chris Roebuck | (719) 412-3145 |
| Executive Committeeman: | Brian Wess | (719) 528-6672 (home) |



American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2024-2025

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Director: | Sean Cope | (719) 246-4820 |
| Vice Director: | Chris Cicchi | (719) 493-5897 |
| Secretary: | Royce Hopper | (918) 953-9993 |
| Treasurer: | Kellie Hayes | (719) 494-7167 |
| Sgt-at-Arms: | Terry Buxton | (720) 520-9878 |
| Road Captain: | Scott Laudan | (719) 238-2679 |
| Logistics: | Maria Alecia | |
| Communications: | Chris Castillo | (202) 709-7485 |
| Chaplain: | Jim Bird | (719) 231-4928 |



From the Desk of Our Commander

I hope everyone had an awesome holiday season and that you are refreshed and recharged for the New Year. In December, we enjoyed a great time with everyone who came in for the Navy-Army Game and annual family Christmas party event on 14 December. Also, thanks to all the Legion Family members who turned out to help distribute water and goody bags to all the Police stations around town as well as candy buckets and snack bags to all the Fire Stations. You may have seen the news spot acknowledging our Post family support to the police on KKTU in a CSPD release. Our efforts were well received!

I hope to see everyone at the next breakfast/membership meeting on 11 January. Our Senior Vice Commander will be running that meeting because I will be fulfilling my District 7 delegate responsibilities at the Department Constitutional Convention in Denver, where we will be finalizing the new Department Constitution and By-Laws.

I would like to highlight that we all have a very important event scheduled this month. The Colorado American Legion Special Convention will occur 23-25 January at the Hilton Fort Collins. At this convention, we will be voting on the new Department Constitution and By-laws and holding department officer elections. This is a pre-requisite for our Department getting our charter reinstated. Voting at this convention will not be by post delegation, but by individual legionnaires in attendance. It is important to attend and make your voice heard! In order to attend, you must pre-register and you must be in possession of your 2025 Legion membership card to gain admission to the business sessions. See the convention event entries at <https://legion209.org> to download the registration packet and to see updates to the agenda for the convention.

Reminder that the Post is now able to offer remote audio-video meeting capability in the main meeting room via Zoom using your computer, tablet or phone. Obviously, we'd MUCH prefer your attendance in person, but we know there are times when that's not possible due to conflicts, illness or travel. This way, you can still stay connected to what is happening at our Post and in our community. Just keep in mind you won't get to eat our delicious breakfast through Zoom!

To virtually access a monthly meeting conducted in the main meeting room, go to:

- Web Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88157713484?pwd=SpUNbbjHxzruvaCfqrnoS4BG0QVJ2L.1>
- Dial In: 719-359-4580; Phone or Zoom App Meeting ID: 881 5771 3484, Passcode: 834801

Let's jump into the New Year for our Veterans! See you at the Post!

Steve Hayes
Post Commander





From Our Adjutant

Happy New Year! I hope this year is good for you. We have a lot of exciting things planned this coming year with the first being the Special Department Convention scheduled for Jan 23 – 25 in Ft. Collins. Check the 411 for details. This is the first step to getting our Department Charter back. We have our first annual golf tournament scheduled for May and more events planned to help Jay with his campaign to become the National Commander. Watch the newsletter and the 411 for upcoming events.

We have been doing okay with renewal but we have more needed to reach our goal. We missed the 75% renewal date but we can catch up. If you have not renewed your membership yet it expired on December 31st and on January 1st if you still have not renewed you go into delinquent status. 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 that 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.

Thanks for all you do to help Veterans and the Post.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Adjutant



From our Post Historian

We begin the new year's look at notable January milestones in American military history on a solemn note. On 4 January 2002, six weeks after U.S. ground forces arrived in Afghanistan, SFC Ross Chapman (USA) became the first of 2461 American heroes killed in Afghanistan, the longest war in U.S. history.



A government contract, dated 4 January 1847, was credited with saving Samuel Colt's struggling gun company, when the United States placed an order for one thousand .44 caliber revolvers. Colt has remained a key supplier to the U.S. military ever after.

In the last major engagement of the War of 1812, General Andrew Jackson's troops defeated a British force twice its size at the Battle of New Orleans. An embedded military correspondent captured the action: "We fired our guns and the British kept a comin', There wasn't as many as there was a while ago, We fired once more and they begin to runnin', on down the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico." At least that's how I heard it.

In the midst of WWII, America's growing military bureaucracy acquired some new office space with the 15 January 1943 dedication of The Pentagon in Washington, DC.

On 16 January 1991, a 32-nation coalition commanded by American General Norman Schwarzkopf commenced the devastating air campaign of Operation Desert Storm to eject Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Theodore Roosevelt is the only President to earn the Medal of Honor, when on 16 January 2001, he was posthumously awarded the honor (which coincidentally was presented in his old White House office). "Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt distinguished himself by acts of bravery on 1 July, 1898, near Santiago de Cuba, Republic of Cuba, while leading a daring charge up San Juan Hill. Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt, in total disregard for his personal safety, and accompanied by only four or five men, led a desperate and gallant charge up San Juan Hill, encouraging his troops to continue the assault through withering enemy fire over open countryside. Facing the enemy's heavy fire, he displayed extraordinary bravery throughout the charge, and was the first to reach the enemy trenches, where he quickly killed one of the enemy with his pistol, allowing his men to continue the assault. His leadership and valor turned the tide in the Battle for San Juan Hill."



The world's first nuclear submarine, USS Nautilus, began its first U.S. Navy mission on 17 January 1955.

In what became known as the "Pueblo Incident," on 23 January 1968, North Korean forces captured the U.S. Navy intelligence-gathering vessel, USS Pueblo, in international waters near Korea. One sailor was killed in its capture and the remaining crew of 82 were "detained" for the next eleven months. To this day, USS Pueblo remains in North Korean custody.

Only days after the "Pueblo Incident," Communist North Vietnamese forces launched the weeks-long deadly Tet Offensive throughout South Vietnam on 28 January 1968. The offensive led to a weakening of American public support for U.S. military efforts in Vietnam.



On 27 January 1973, Paris Peace Accords officially ended America's war in Vietnam, eleven years to the day after Defense Secretary McNamara had forwarded to President Kennedy the Joint Chiefs recommendation to deploy U.S. combat troops to Vietnam. President Nixon announced that America had achieved "peace with honor" in the war in which 58,220 American military heroes gave their lives and 1582 remain unaccounted for.

Although 4 August 1790 is celebrated as its "official" birthdate with the founding of the Revenue Cutter Service, the U.S. Coast Guard was formally created by law on 28 January 1915, combining the missions of multiple federal maritime agencies.

Before Captain Alan Shepard (USN) became the first American man in space, there was...Ham, the "Astrochimp." On 31 January 1961, Ham was successfully launched into space in a Mercury capsule atop a Redstone rocket; the results from his test flight led directly to the Mercury mission [Alan Shepard](#) made on 5 May 1961, aboard [Freedom 7](#).

Happy New Year Post 209!

Kurt Skinner
Post Historian





From Our Auxiliary President

Happy New year! I hope 2025 is kind to all of you and you all get everything you hope for in 2025.

January is our mid-year point. The American Legion Auxiliary Mid-Year Conference will be January 24-January 25 at the Hilton Fort Collins. If you plan to attend, you will need to register BEFORE the deadline. The deadline is January 10th & the registration fee is \$25. Walk-In Registrations will not be accepted. If you are interested in attending, the registration information was in the Department newsletter. If you did not get the newsletter, check out the ALA Department web site for registration information.

Happy birthday to our members who were born in January!

Royce Hopper
Unit President



From our Auxiliary Secretary

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Colorado end of year report deadline is April 15, 2025. The report covers the Unit activities for the Auxiliary year from April 1 to March 31. Volunteer hours, money raised for projects/events, mileage, and in-kind donations are reported to the Department chairman of the committees. I am working on this report and need your help. Please send me the number of volunteer hours you have completed throughout the reporting year for other organizations, church, community events in order to include them in the report. Also, if you took pictures at a Post event, please send me your favorite or post it to Facebook. My email is ladypatkst@q.com.

I would also like to announce that I am running for President of Unit 209 for the 2025-2026 year. Nominations will be made for all offices at the March 2025 meeting with the election following at the April 2025 meeting. If you are interested in running for an office, you will need to submit a letter of intent to the Secretary of the nominating committee. We will need to elect a Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Historian, and Sgt-at-Arms. If you have any questions please contact me.

Pat Weaver
Unit Secretary



From our American Legion Riders

Honoring the American Legion Riders of Post 209

As 2024 comes to a close, the members of the American Legion Riders (ALR) Post 209 deserve a heartfelt thank-you for their dedication, volunteerism, and steadfast commitment to service. Through their

contributions to the post, advocacy for safe motorcycle riding, and passion for riding in honor of those who can't, the Riders embody the very best of our values.

Volunteers Making a Difference

The American Legion Riders are more than just a group of motorcycle enthusiasts; they are a family, veterans, and supporters who consistently step up to serve. Whether organizing events, assisting with post initiatives, or supporting local veterans and their families, the Riders have gone above and beyond to strengthen our community. Their tireless efforts ensure that the American Legion Post 209 continues to thrive as a beacon of support for those who have served our nation.

Advocates for Safe Motorcycle

Safety is a cornerstone of the American Legion Riders. This year, Post 209 Riders have remained committed to promoting safe motorcycle practices. All riders provide teaching moments and awareness about road safety among their peers and the community. The Riders have shown that responsible riding is not just a practice but a principle. Our focus on safety sets an example for all motorcyclists and reinforces the importance of vigilance and respect on the road.

Riding for Those Who Can't

Perhaps most inspiring is the Riders' dedication to their mission of riding for those who can't. Each mile and hour traveled is a tribute to our fallen heroes, a show of solidarity with those still serving, and a reminder of the sacrifices made by countless veterans. Whether participating in memorial rides, escorting fallen service members, or supporting charitable events, the Riders ensure that the memory and legacy of our nation's heroes are never forgotten.

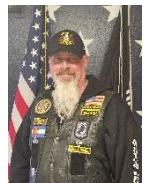
A Legacy of Service

The contributions of the American Legion Riders extend beyond the road. Their fundraising efforts have supported vital programs for our Post, Veterans, their families, and our community. The Riders have made a tangible impact that will be felt for years to come. As we reflect on the accomplishments of this remarkable group, we are reminded of the power of unity and the profound impact of service. To every member of the American Legion Riders and the Post 209 Family, I thank you for your dedication, your compassion, and your enduring commitment to making a difference. You ride not only with pride but with purpose, and for that, I am grateful!

Here's to another year of service, camaraderie, and safe travels on the road ahead. Ride on!

Sean Cope

Director, American Legion Riders Post 209



From our Color/Honor Guard Captain

Happy New Year! The Honor Guard team is looking forward to another busy year supporting Our Veterans and Our Community.

The 2024 calendar year ended with the team supporting the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Pikes Peak National Cemetery December 14, 2024. At the time of this article submission, the Honor Guard supported 70 events for the year:

- 66 Final Honors
- 1 Presentation of Colors
- 3 Ceremonies

Unfortunately, the Honor Guard was unable to support every request received, 12 events total. This means that seven Veterans did not receive the Final Honors they earned/deserved and other community events were not able to be supported:

- Canceled Support: 1 Final Honors and 1 Parade
- Requests Denied: 6 Final Honors, 3 Presentation of Colors and 1 Ceremony

As included in last month's article, one thing is lacking from Post 209 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), Jay's year (and the perfect time to show all the Posts in The American Legion what our Post is capable of), and Kansas City (2027) are definitely within reach. Are there at least three or four Post 209 members willing to give it a try? Please reach out and let me know, nothing can ever happen without at least having some discussion.

So, now it is time for the standard ending of my newsletter article –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.

Joel Haas
Honor Guard Captain





From our Junior Shooting Sports Program

Happy New Year! The JSSP Instructors, Range Safety Officers, and Volunteers are looking forward to another great year for the program.

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). There will be a JSSP Volunteer Meeting coming up soon, more information to be included in the Weekly 411. 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.

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

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

JANUARY NAVAL HISTORY:

This month for Salty Dog I decided to give a little history. On January 4th 1988 the USS John F Kennedy (CV-67) encountered a pair of [MiG-23 Flogger fighter aircraft](#) from Libya. They approached the carrier task force, which was 81 miles (130 km) off the shore of Libya near the declared Libyan territorial waters of the Gulf of Sidra. John F. Kennedy launched two F-14 Tomcats from VF-32 "Fighting Swordsmen" to intercept the incoming MiGs. The U.S. planes were sent to escort the MiGs away from the task force. During the course of the intercept, the MiGs were determined to be hostile and were shot down.

I remember this day vividly for two reasons; 1) it was my brothers' birthday and 2) I was onboard the Kennedy at the time. We had a General Quarters drill scheduled for that day but it got cancelled in case Libya decided to retaliate. The picture below is taken out of our cruise book.



Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Adjutant





Bringing A Little South to the West

Before the Super Wal-Mart's and Target Stores, Drug Stores pretty much ruled the metro retail space. Calling them Drug Stores was really a misnomer. In many metro areas, they sold much more than aspirin. They were soda shops, sold clothes, and just about anything you needed for your home. For us in the Memphis Oakhaven/Whitehaven area, that was Katz Drug Store.

This was an AMAZING store. There were two things that stood out for me at Katz; the soda shop inside the store, and an escalator. This was the very first escalator I had ever seen. I thought it was a state-of-the-art method for transporting someone between floors. It was a staircase that actually moved. All you had to do was stand on one step and it would transport you to another floor without you having to take another step.

The soda fountain featured a long counter with several stools where you could sit and enjoy a lunch sandwich or something from the soda machine. I don't think I ever went there for the lunch, but man the sodas were GREAT! Their root beer was my favorite soda, and they even had root beer floats. But even better than that was the Banana Splits. WOW! To this day, I don't recall having anything that came close to the Banana Splits at Katz. They were served in an oblong bowl, not very deep. There were scoops of chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry ice cream as the base. A full banana was split (hence the term) length-wise and provided a border on each side of the ice cream. On top of the ice cream scoops were nuts, whip cream, some chocolate and strawberry compote, and a cherry topped the middle scoop.

Probably just as popular, or maybe more the reason I liked the Banana Split was the balloon busts. Behind the counter against the wall were several balloons. You had the opportunity to throw a dart and pop the balloon before paying for the Banana Split. Inside each balloon was a piece of paper with a cost written on it. That's what you'd pay for the Banana Split. I think every balloon had some kind of discount, and occasionally you'd luck into getting the Banana Split free or maybe only have to pay a nickel. That made the treat even more popular.

But sadly, nothing lasts forever. Katz was eventually bought out by mega drug store Osco, which was later bought by CVS. This is the way of the world I guess. For the most part, it is good I think. But sometimes when these things happen, we lose a little bit of the Americana that made this great nation the best place in the world to live. I would personally like to see us move back just a little to a more-simple time when customer service was king and you could go into a store and not just buy clothes and drugs, but also enjoy a Banana Split at a Soda Fountain counter.

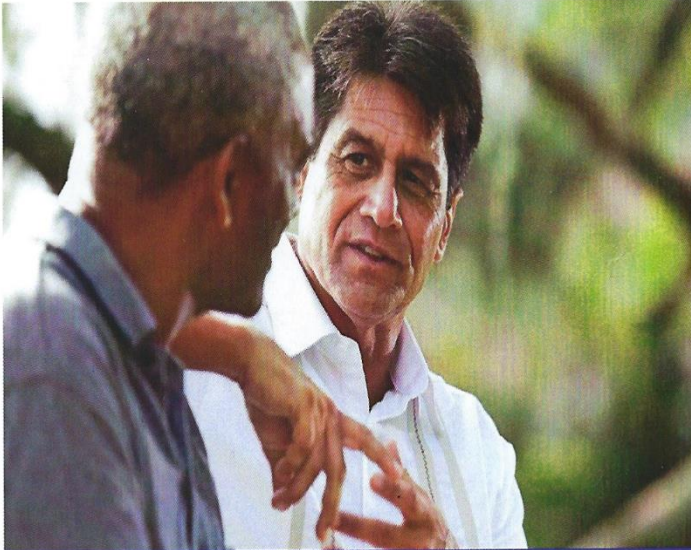
Thinking about this makes me crave a root beer float. I've given up on trying to recapture the same flavor of the Banana Split I enjoyed at Katz. Maybe that's a good thing. I am after all, trying to get ready for swim suit season. 😊

Jay Bowen
Past Commander



UPCOMING EVENTS

Tips for Confronting a Veteran in Crisis!

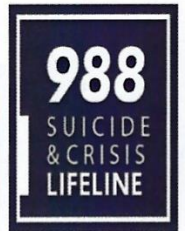


ASK A FELLOW VETERAN
CARE FOR A FELLOW VETERAN
EMBRACE A FELLOW VETERAN

| | | |
|---|------------|---------------|
| 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

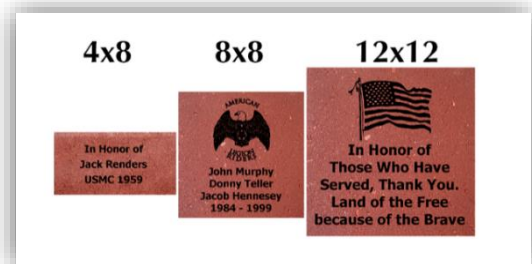
Contact SQ 209:
Rob Barry
719-930-5725
colo.rsb@yahoo.com



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 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

(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/
- GIRLS STATE 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


















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/>

| January 2025 | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | 1 New Year's Day Happy New Year!  | 2  Venture Crew 7:00pm Ex. Cmte Meeting 6:00pm  | 3 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm  RSVP Required! | 4  Honor Bell Meeting 10:00am |
| 5 | 6 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm | 7 | 8 | 9  Venture Crew 7:00pm | 10 Price TBD SAL Dinner 6:00pm  RSVP Required! | 11 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 \$15/person Chicken Fried Chicken 6:00pm  RSVP Required! | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Martin Luther King Day! | 21 ALR Exec. Mtng  ALR 6:30pm. | 22 | 23 Honor Gd. Trng  6:00pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm | 24 Price TBD <div style="background-color: #1a3d54; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">Department Mid-Year - Ft. Collins</div> ALA Dinner 6:00pm  RSVP Required! | 25 Healing Warriors! 9:00am-1:00pm Vets Helping Vets |
| 26 | 27 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm | 28 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:45 - ELECTIONS   | 29 | 30  Venture Crew 7:00pm | 31 Price TBD Troop 77 Fundraising Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! | Notes: |

| February 2025 | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--|--|-----------|--|--|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | | | | 1  Honor Bell Meeting 10:00am |
| 2 Groundhog Day | 3 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm | 4 | 5 | 6  Venture Crew 7:00pm Ex. Cmte Meeting 6:00pm  | 7 Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm  RSVP Required! | 8 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00   |
| 9 | 10 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm | 11 Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm  | 12 | 13  Venture Crew 7:00pm | 14 Valentine's Day ALR Dinner 6:00pm  RSVP Required! | 15 |
| 16 | 17 Presidents Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm | 18 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm.  | 19 | 20  Venture Crew 7:00pm | 21 Chicken Fried Chicken 6:00pm  RSVP Required! | 22 Washington's Birthday Healing Warriors! 9:00am-1:00pm Vets Helping Vets |
| 23 | 24 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm | 25 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:45pm   | 26 | 27 Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm | 28 ALA Dinner 6:00pm  RSVP Required! | Notes: |