



The Centennial

Volume XIV
Edition 2

February 2023

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209



Photo credit: Kurt Skinner - Presentation of National Chaplain shadow box to Pastor Stan Hamamoto by PNC Tom Bock & Elaine Bock at the January post membership meeting.

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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 2022-2023

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Commander: | Marvin Weaver, Jr. | (719) 244-3535 |
| Adjutant: | Doug Millison | (719) 599-8624 |
| Sr. Vice Commander: | Steve Hayes | (719) 494-7166 |
| Jr. Vice Commander: | Jerry Hopper | (918) 953-9980 |
| Honor Guard: | Joel Haas | (719) 482-4496 |
| Finance Officer: | Sarah Tobin | (719) 439-7724 |
| Service Officer: | Brian Murphy | (719) 930-4147 |
| Judge Advocate: | Marvin Weaver | (719) 638-4763 |
| Historian: | Kurt Skinner | (719) 963-3517 |
| Exec. Cmte man/Club Mgr: | Art Kimbrel | (719) 339-4610 |
| Chaplain: | Brad Henderson | (830) 660-4072 |
| Immediate Past CDR: | Lino Calica | (719) 963-0956 |
| Sgt.-at-Arms: | Bobby Senter | (719) 660-3775 |



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2022-2023

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| President: | Royce Hopper | (918) 953-9993 |
| Vice President: | Cathy Barger | (719) 290-3163 |
| Secretary: | Pat Weaver | (719) 638-4763 |
| Treasurer: | Kellie Hayes | (719) 494-7167 |
| Chaplain: | Mary Bramer | (719) 633-8612 |
| Exec.-at-Large: | Jackie Bowen | (901) 481-0673 |
| Historian: | Sarah Tobin | (719) 439-7724 |
| Sgt-at-Arms: | Michelle Bresee | |



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2022-2023

| | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------|
| Commander: | Rob Barry | (719) 930-5125 |
| Adjutant & Finance Officer: | Ken Taylor | (719) 461-4047 |
| Sr. Vice Commander: | Brad Henderson | (830) 660-4072 |
| Chaplain: | Brad Henderson | (830) 660-4072 |
| Jr. Vice Commander: | Chris Hollingsworth | (910) 364-1677 |
| Sgt-at-Arms: | Bob Ingram | (480) 353-8234 |



American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2022-2023

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| President: | Ed Santos | (719) 329-4357 |
| Vice President: | Jerry "Rico" Shay | (719) 244-3901 |
| Secretary: | Royce Hopper | (918) 953-9993 |
| Treasurer: | Scott Laudan | (719) 238-2679 |
| Sgt-at-Arms: | Bobby Senter | (719) 660-3775 |
| Road Captain: | Sean Cope | (719) 246-4820 |
| Historian: | Tina Cope | |
| Communications: | Gary Asp | (719) 822-3270 |



From the desk of the Commander

First, the following members reached a membership milestone after the last newsletter went to print. So included in the congratulations now are:

- 5 YEAR – Jimmy Harris and Will Mawhiney
- 10 YEAR – Wayne Cooksey
- 15 YEAR – Walter Ressico
- 25 YEAR – Leroy Quintana

If you believe you were left out or added by mistake, please contact the Adjutant to get it sorted.

Secondly, I'm sitting here thinking about what I should write about this month, looking out the window. I realize the reason I love living in Colorado so much. I can see Pikes Peak with the snow cap and the clouds behind, bringing us another winter storm this year. Unless you live in the alps, I don't think you can find a better view. The mountains are covered with snow, and more is coming. The amazing part is we were at 57 degrees just yesterday.

The snow normally makes me remember some of my favorite times up in the mountains. I have put on my skis and flown down some of those mountains. A few times, I managed to stay upright for the entire day. I remember one time up at Monarch, my friend from work and I decided we would take one last run. While going up the lift, it started snowing. We were headed to the backside and made it, but we were pretty cold. We started down the run that we had been skiing most of the day, and it was snowing so hard that even with my goggles on, I could not see very far in front of me. Having gone down this run before in the day, I remember the one tree right in the middle of it; on one side, it was groomed and fast (my favorite side), and on the other, it was a giant mogul field. I am not a fan of moguls, but I will attempt to ski them if I have to. Well, I remembered about the tree and turned into the mogul field. What came next was probably my most spectacular wreck. Not being able to see very well, I lost my balance, and my buddy said I looked like a piece of popcorn coming up from the mogul. I landed on my back and continued to slide most of the way down the hill. My buddy stopped and picked up my skis to bring them to me. After catching my breath, I put my skis on, and we continued down the mountain. I felt that wreck for a few days after.

The last time I went skiing Dad, Mom, and my brother Sean went to Winter Park and spent a week there. We had a good time and did not ski every day; if I remember correctly, we only skied one day. Mom does not ski (usually, she stays in the lodge, reserving us a table for lunch), so we found other activities to do that would include her. One day we took a horse carriage ride that had stops along the way for hot chocolate and enjoying the views. Another day Dad, Sean, and I rented snowmobiles and took a guided tour farther into the mountains. We had a good time doing that, and our guide thanked us for keeping up with him because we managed to hit all the trails he would normally ride. Winter Park is a nice ski resort because it is big, and it is not very hard during the week to find trails to ski down that do not

have many people on them. So the three of us would normally stay close together going down the mountain. It was a nice getaway and turned out to be good because we lost Sean in May.

One of my other favorite ski trips was when my younger brother Neil came home from Okinawa along with his wife, Tiffany. We decided to go up to Ski Cooper for the day. What was nice about Ski Cooper is that it is not a big resort, so it does not get very busy during the week, which makes for fun skiing without the crowds. Everyone went up Neil, Tiffany, Sean, Sean's wife at the time, and her two boys, Dad and Mom. Mom stayed in the lodge, saving us a table for lunch and talking with people there. The rest of us split up for part of the day. Dad, Neil, Sean, and I took off toward the back side of the mountain and had a blast, just us guys flying up and down the hill. After lunch, we all went back up and skied together the rest of the day. I do love the snow. I am just not that big of a fan of it down here in Colorado Springs (I don't like skiing with my car)

Enjoy the snow we have coming your way!!

Thanks for everything you do to help Veterans and our Post.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander



From the desk of the Jr. Vice Commander

Did you know: beginning March 1, 2023, for those who carry coverage under the Servicemember's Group Life Insurance program, the maximum coverage is going up to \$500K? In addition, starting Jan 17, 2023, The VA will begin paying for emergency mental health care for all veterans at any VA facility.

I hope this helps many of you begin to enjoy this New Year.

Jerry Hepper
Jr Vice Commander





From our Post Adjutant

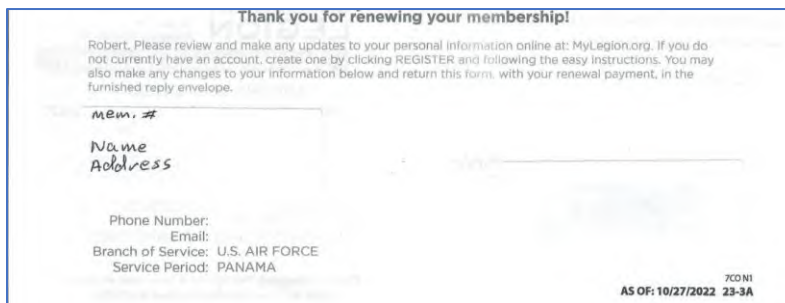
Let's talk a little more about renewals, avoiding double payments, and keeping your records up to date. Every couple of weeks, I get a second renewal from somebody because they received another renewal notice or a note on the returned notice, *usually* politely informing me that they already renewed and to stop sending the renewals, or somebody's new card returned for an incorrect address.

First off, we don't send the notices; National does. They have a cutoff date of when a renewal can get processed and taken off the mailings because the list has gone to the printer. It is NOT instantaneous. When you pay your renewal, please make sure you get a new card in the mail and keep it handy. Notice that the year (highlighted) is on your card. If you do NOT get a card within three weeks of renewing, please get in touch with me to fix it.



Please note the lower right corner of the renewal slip, highlighted here for you...

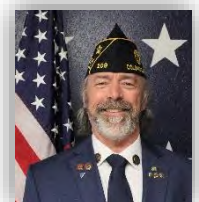
“Please disregard this notice if you have already paid your membership renewal for (year)” If you have your card, there is no need to send me a note or call. Just disregard. If not, please let me know so we can determine what happened.



Finally, the back of the renewal slip has space to change your address, phone, email, name, or whatever. It has directions on how to make the changes online yourself, or you can add it to the slip and send it back, and I will

make the necessary changes. Otherwise, your new card could be in my misdirected box (Waltz, Smith JR, Walla, Herndon).

Doug Millison
Adjutant





From our Post Historian

On 1 February 1943, one year after Executive Order 9066 authorized the relocation and internment of Americans of Japanese ancestry, the U.S. government approved the creation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated Japanese American unit. Due to its distinguished actions in the European theater during WWII, the 442nd became the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in American military history. The unit of 18,000 men was awarded seven Presidential Unit Citations, over 4,000 Purple Hearts and Bronze Stars, 560 Silver Stars, and 21 Medals of Honor.

G.I. Joe – “America’s Movable Fighting Man” first reported for duty on 2 February 1964. The author confesses to spending most of his meager 1970s grade school earnings on uniforming and equipping his “platoon” of G.I. Joes. Regrettably, they are listed as Missing in Action today.



The U.S. troop transport ship *Dorchester* was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Greenland on 3 February 1943. Among the 672 killed were the “Four Chaplains,” who valiantly went down with the ship while helping to preserve the lives of others.

“It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven,” remarked one survivor who witnessed the chaplains’ selfless acts.



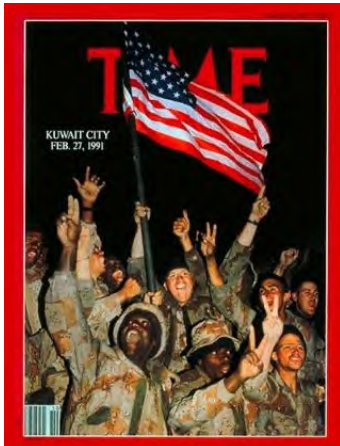
The United Service Organization (USO) was founded on 4 February 1941 to support American service members and their families.

On the evening of 15 February 1898, the American battleship USS *Maine* exploded while peacefully anchored in Cuba’s Havana harbor, killing 266 crewmen. A naval investigation determined an external device was the likely cause; many Americans suspected Spanish treachery. “Remember the Maine” became America’s rallying cry for war against Spain in the decisive U.S. victory in the

Spanish-American War of 1898.

In the bloody WWII Battle for Iwo Jima, U.S. Marines captured the strategic position of Mount Suribachi on 23 February 1945. The iconic photo of six Marines raising the U.S. flag on the crest instantly became a favorite American patriotic image. It inspired the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial design at Arlington, VA.



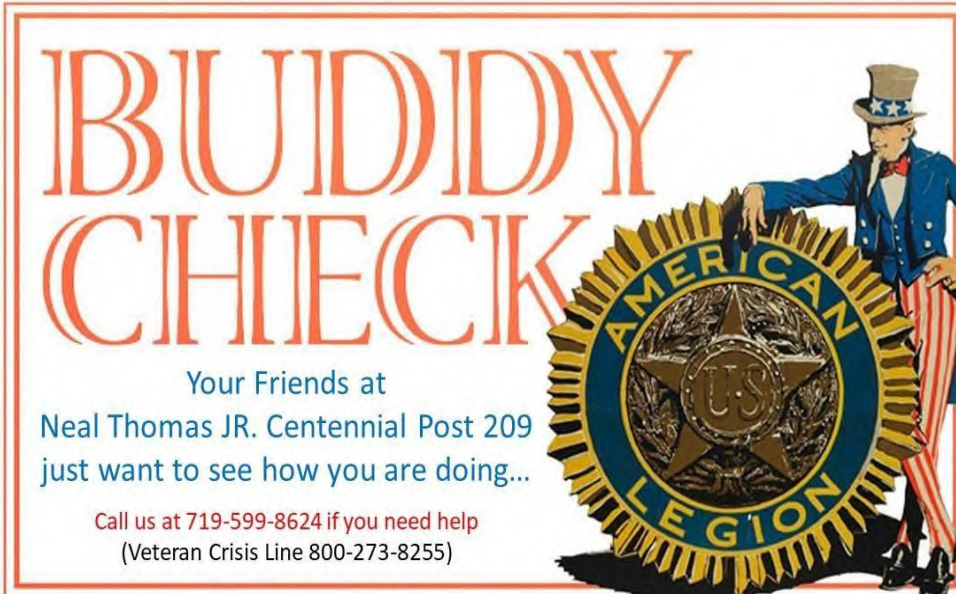
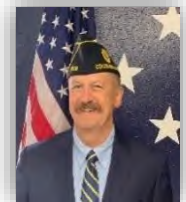


On 24 February 1917, the British government presented President Wilson with an intercepted and deciphered secret telegram in which the German Foreign minister, Arthur Zimmermann, proposed an alliance with Mexico against the United States and promised support for Mexico “to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.” When its contents were published in March 1917, the “Zimmermann telegram” contributed significantly to American public support for a war declaration against Germany. Sixty-nine years earlier, in February 1848, with their defeat in the Mexican-American War (1846-48), Mexico had ceded territory to the United States that comprised the future states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and portions of Wyoming and Colorado.

In the final days of February 1991, after six weeks of devastating Allied aerial bombardment that crippled Iraq’s military and civil infrastructure during Operation Desert Storm, the 100-hour Allied ground offensive against Iraq’s forces resulted in the liberation of Kuwait and the destruction of Iraq’s armed forces.

And finally, happy 47th birthday to us! Temporarily chartered as “Templeton Gap Post 209,” The American Legion officially chartered our post on 26 February 1976 as “Centennial Post 209” in honor of Colorado’s 100-year commemoration of statehood during the 1976 American bicentennial.

Kurt Skinner
Historian

The image is a promotional graphic for "Buddy Check" at Centennial Post 209. It features the text "BUDDY CHECK" in large, stylized, orange letters. Below this, it says "Your Friends at Neal Thomas JR. Centennial Post 209 just want to see how you are doing...". At the bottom, it provides contact information: "Call us at 719-599-8624 if you need help (Veteran Crisis Line 800-273-8255)". On the right side, there is a graphic of Uncle Sam standing next to a large, circular American Legion seal. The seal has a star in the center with "U.S." on it, and the words "AMERICAN LEGION" around the bottom edge.



From our Honor Guard Captain

The following article was posted to The American Legion National Honor Guard website (<https://www.legion.org/honor/honorguards>) in recognition of Brad's hard work and dedication to the Post 209 Honor Guard.

"The primary mission of The American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 Honor Guard is to support Final Honors for Our Veterans, which is then followed by supporting Our Post and Our Community. The members of the Honor Guard showed very strong support in all mission areas by supporting 83 events during the 2022 calendar year. Of the 83 events supported, 74 of those events were Final Honors for Our Veterans, five (5) Presentation of Colors events for Our Post and Our Community, two (2) ceremonies at Pikes Peak National Cemetery supporting Memorial Day and Wreaths Across America, one (1) flag presentation, and a Veterans Day Parade.

One member of the Honor Guard stands out in providing support to Our Veterans, Our Post, and Our Community – Brad Henderson.

Brad joined the Honor Guard in October 2021 when answering a call for anyone willing to support even just one event a month because that one event might be the one that the Honor Guard cannot support without another available member. Brad has become much more than a "one event a month" Honor Guard member. Out of the 83 events the Honor Guard supported in 2022, Brad supported 49 of those events. Final Honors for Our Veterans accounted for 43 of those events, 58% of the total Final Honors performed by the Honor Guard. Brad was that one "available member" for 16 of those Final Honors, ensuring those Veterans received the Honors they earned and deserved. Our Veterans, Our Post, and Our Community are very lucky to have Brad as a member of The American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 Honor Guard."

Are you looking for a way to become involved with activities at the Post? The Honor Guard team holds weekly meetings/practices at 6:00 pm on the 1st Monday, 2nd Tuesday, 3rd Wednesday, and 4th Thursday of each month (please check the Newsletter calendar for any changes in dates). Come to the Post and check out one of the meetings, and see if the Honor Guard is something you would want to help support.

There is no such thing as having too many members. Consider joining; just **ONE** event is all you need to make a difference in helping support Our Veterans and Our Community. If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard or the Competition Color Guard, please reach out to me at (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org.



Photo credit: Joe LaChat. Post 209 Honor Guard Captain Joel Haas presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Post 209 Honor Guard Member Brad Henderson

Joel W. Haas
Honor Guard Captain





From The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC)

"We are closing The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) at Post 209 due to inactivity and dwindling membership and interest in the club. However, if, at a future date, the time comes to re-activate or start a new TALARC at Post 209, we will be more than happy to support this program.

Thanks to all who have participated in TALARC since its inception. We look forward to your continuing membership and support in our other programs and events at Post 209. Let our Post/Unit/Squadron 209 family know if there is any program you are interested in participating in. You are a valued member of our family."

Ham radio, also known as amateur radio, is a hobby and service that uses designated radio frequency bands for the non-commercial exchange of messages, wireless experimentation, self-training, and emergency communications. Ham radio operators, also known as "hams," use various modes of transmission, including voice, digital data, and images, to communicate with other hams worldwide. Ham radio has several significant uses and benefits.

One of the most important is its role in providing emergency communications during times of crisis, such as natural disasters, when traditional forms of communication may be disrupted. Ham radio operators are often called upon to provide vital communications support to first responders and emergency management officials. Another important use of the ham radio is for long-distance communication. Hams can communicate with other hams worldwide, even when traditional forms of communication are unavailable.

This has been particularly valuable for people living in remote or isolated areas. The ham radio is a great hobby and educational tool for people of all ages. It is used for self-training in electronics, computer science, and many other subjects. It also encourages the development of communication, problem-solving, and teamwork skills. Overall, Ham radio is a way for people to communicate in different ways and situations; it's a tool that can be used to provide critical communications during an emergency, make contacts with other hams around the world, and learn about technology and communications.



From the Chaplain: ARE YOU LISTENING?

Some of life's fondest memories come from things that we have heard. As the grandson of a railroad man, I relish the sounds of the great locomotives: both steam and diesel. As the oldest brother in two families, I learned how to distinguish babies' cries early on. There is a difference between cries of frustration and anger and those of fatigue, disappointment, and fear. Ah, the magic of sound! Who among us doesn't like good music? Think about it - there is a world of difference between "city sounds" and "country sounds."

How important is listening? For folks like me, the better part of counseling isn't when the chaplain or pastor opens his mouth but when he doesn't. Reverend Ronald Patrick Raab, a former pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Colorado Springs, wrote in the January 2023 edition of the "Springs Echo," "A young man with AIDS asked to come into my office one day. He said, 'I have asked three other priests to listen to me. They would not listen. Would you at least listen to me?' We talked for three hours. The young man died a few months later." That encounter changed Reverend Raab's entire focus on his ministry twenty years ago. He now works with the vulnerable and marginalized.

Military, industrial, educational, and other leaders know that the best part of the command is not in the "telling" but in the listening. Good leaders seek input and hear their subordinates' issues and concerns, allowing them to formulate informed decisions. In our house, Dad was a Marine with big muscles. He spoke. We listened.

What about God? Does He listen? In my belief system, He does. Incredibly, the scriptures say that the Good Lord knows what we ask even before we ask it. "*Do not be like them (the hypocrites), for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.*" (Matthew 6:8). "*And while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*" (Isaiah 65:24)

Our challenge? The Good Lord doesn't work for FedEx. Sometimes, the answer to prayer comes right away. Other times, the answer may come days, weeks, or even years after our supplication. Like the old country song says, we sometimes thank God for unanswered prayer. "Okay, Chaplain. But what does that have to do with The American Legion Family?" Everything.

If we are to "**Be the One**" to help prevent suicide – whether it be in simple "buddy checks" or reaching out elsewhere to a brother or sister in need, we must engage with those wounded, hurting, lost, confused, and hopeless with open minds and open hearts, free of judgment. It provides reassurance to each of them that someone cares. We may not have all the answers, but depending on the situation, we may know someone who can help. At the very least, we can offer hope and compassion. Are you listening?

"NOW HEAR THIS." February 5th is "Four Chaplains Sunday." Post 209 will present a special service commemorating the lives of these four courageous, holy men of World War II during our monthly membership meeting at 1000 hours on Saturday, February 11th. If you have never seen a service honoring the Four Chaplains, please plan to be there.

Brad Henderson
Chaplain





From the desk of the Unit President

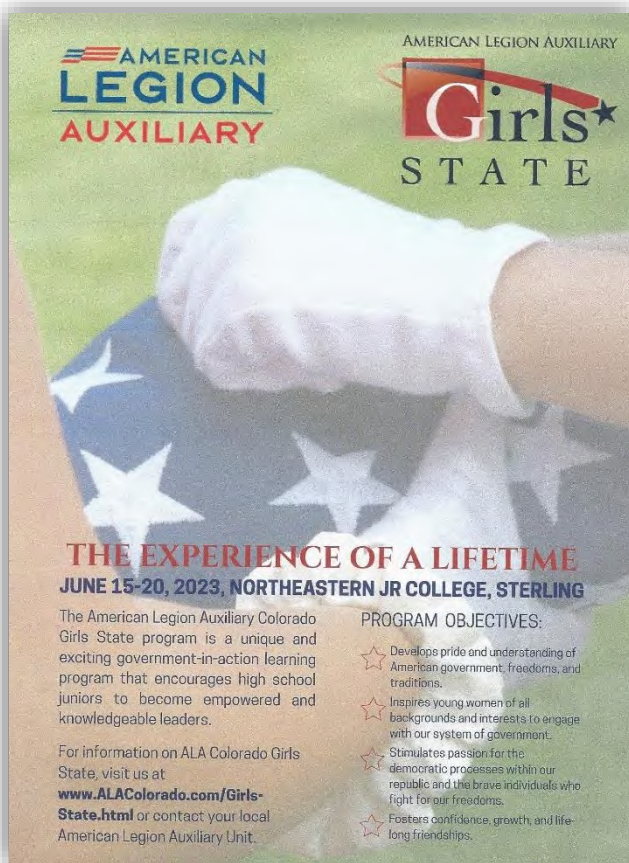
Happy February. This month we are reminding everyone to bring our Chaplain Mary B. any poems, prayers, pictures, etc., that we can use in our Unit's prayer book.


If you are interested in helping out with our CO Girls State program, applications for counselors are on the Department website. If you would rather help with our Unit Girls State, please reach out to Jackie Bowen or me.


Happy birthday to all our members who are celebrating their birthdays in February.

Royce Hopper

Unit President



 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

 Girls
STATE

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME
JUNE 15-20, 2023, 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.

For information on ALA Colorado Girls State, visit us at www.ALAColorado.com/Girls-State.html or contact your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit.

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.



From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

I am happy to announce that the post is safer than it was a month ago. We could purchase and mount an AED at the front entrance of the post. For those who aren't aware, this could save a life. The thought of using this machine can be unnerving for some people. However, this AED is one of the easiest to operate. You will get audio instructions, along with a tv screen that shows exactly what to do. Our goal is never to use this in an emergency, but the equipment is available if needed.

Now that we have our own AED, classes will be put together to proper use. We will also try to incorporate a hands-on CPR class that fits right with the AED. We are working with fire station 10 to see if they would be able to come and assist with this training. At this time, it would just be a hands-on class to familiarize people with the skills needed. I am working to find a certified instructor to get the post certified in CPR. Please contact the squadron if you know anyone who could teach a certified class.

Last week was our first Refuse to be a Victim class held at the post. We had 40 people in attendance, and it was a very informative and fun afternoon. Vice Commander Chris Hollingsworth has created an awesome course, and I urge everyone to come and enjoy it. I want to thank Chris for all of the work he has put into this program. Thank you! The second course will be on February 4th at the post. We are planning on it being a packed room again, so please sign up soon.

Squadron 209 is now sitting at 60 members. Our goal for this year is to hit triple digits. If you have not yet renewed for the year, please do so. I would also ask that if you are a legionnaire and qualify to be a son, think about becoming a member. We are the state's largest legion; our squadron should also represent that.

Squadron 209 is looking at a very active spring. Keep informed at the remodeled post website, or come to the post and see what has been happening. Have a safe and happy February. See you at the post!

BE THE ONE!

Rob Barry
Commander

Sons of The American Legion 209



UPCOMING EVENTS



The American Legion

Colorado Boys State

A Week that will shape a Lifetime



FINISHING YOUR JUNIOR YEAR?

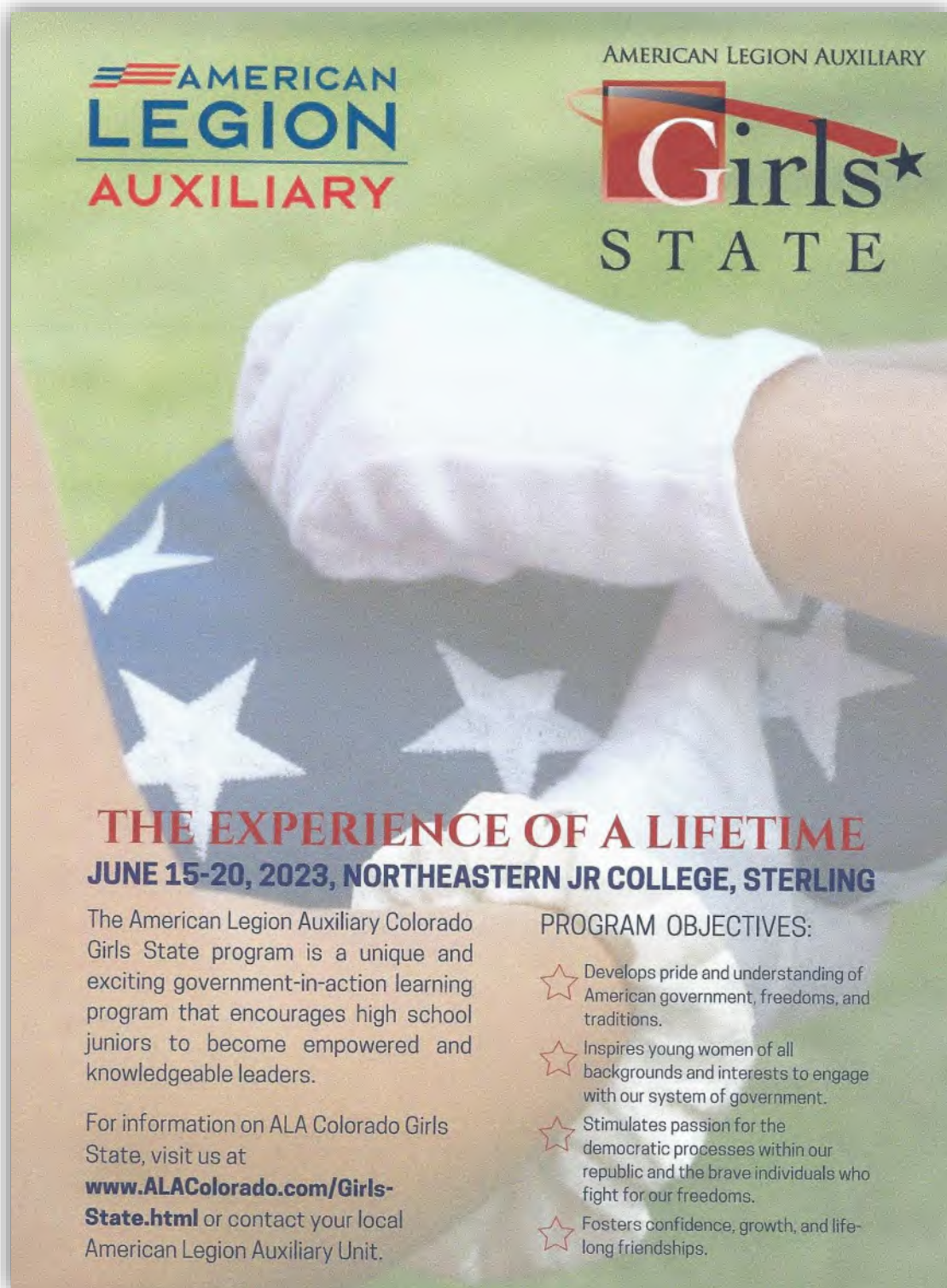
***YOU can join the nation's premier civics program
developing future leaders since 1949***

- You learn to govern Your State!
- Earn scholarships and college credits
- Military Academy application credit
 - Support our American heritage
 - No cost to attend

4-10 June 2023

To apply online, visit us at

www.CoLegionBoysState.org



**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Girls★
STATE

THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME
JUNE 15-20, 2023, NORTHEASTERN JR COLLEGE, STERLING

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- ★ Fosters confidence, growth, and life-long friendships.

Buddy Time

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

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

February's Buddy Time is **February 18th, 0900 – 1100.** We are looking forward to seeing you there.





Junior Shooting Sports Program (aka Young Guns)

The next set of Junior Shooting Sports Program courses are scheduled to start on Wednesday, February 8 (Marksmanship) and Thursday, February 9 (Young Guns), each running for ten weeks. The Marksmanship course provides youth ages 10-18 (boys and girls) who have completed the Young Guns course the opportunity to build further and develop their shooting skills. During the Marksmanship course, youth work with NRA Basic Rifle Instructors to improve their shooting and can earn the NRA Air Rifle Qualification patch with rockers for each skill level mastered (Pro Marksman, Marksman, Sharpshooter, Expert, and Distinguished Expert). Three-time slots are available to sign up for, with six youth shooters per time slot: 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, and 7:00 pm.

The Young Guns course provides youth ages 10-18 (boys and girls) the opportunity to learn about firearms safety and basic shooting skills. During the Young Guns course, 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 to show off the skills they have learned. The course starts at 6:30 pm with a total of 12 youth shooters.

There are still slots available for both courses, costing \$30 per youth shooter for either course. If a youth is interested in learning how to handle a firearm safely and basic shooting skills, they are invited to sign up for the Young Guns course. If a youth has completed the Young Guns, they are asked to sign up for the Marksmanship course. Please go to <https://legion209.org/young-guns/> to download an application, complete it, and send it to Jesse Wade (jssp209@gmail.com) to sign up for either class. Also, please get in touch with Jesse or me (jwhaas.al209@gmail.com) regarding the Junior Shooting Sports Program.

Joel W. Haas
JSSP Instructor

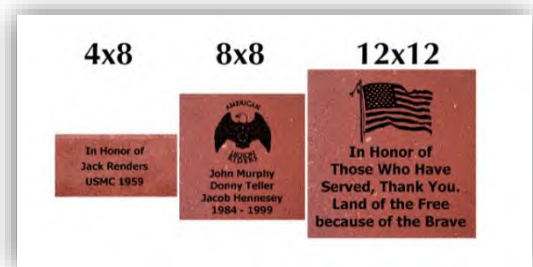


FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

Walk of Honor



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



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

Celebrate

At
American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

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



Rental Features:

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

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

Starting at
\$350!



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply

GUEST COMMENTARY



What is your MOS?

January 4th, 1989, is a day I will never forget. Not only was it my brother's birthday, but on that day, while onboard the USS John F Kennedy CV-67, it was also exciting (if that's the right word to use). We got up in the morning like any other day while underway. We were out in the Mediterranean conducting ops like any other day. That morning the POD (Plan of the Day) let us all know that we would have a General Quarters drill during the day. Whenever we would have a GQ drill, before the drill, we would hear a scenario that we would be using for the GQ. The Captain came over the 1mc (intercom) about noon, and the 1mc was cutting in and out. We couldn't understand what he was saying, but at the end, we heard him say, "well, anyway, we just shot down two Libyan MIG Floggers." We all thought he was setting up the scenario for the GQ drill; shortly after, the Boatswain came over the 1mc advising that the drill had been canceled. What we didn't know was that we were operating in the area that Muammar Qadhafi, the dictatorial ruler of Libya from 1969-2011, had said was the line of death and the two MiGs had gotten too close to the ship and were not backing down, so the Captain gave the order to shoot them down. Things got quiet for most of the day while information and rumors passed throughout the ship. We were waiting to see if he would retaliate, but he never did. The one thing this event did was shorten our next port visit. We were scheduled to pull into Haifa, Israel, in two days and be there for ten days. Our stay got cut short to three days, and we had two Israeli gunboats circling us the entire time we were

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





Salty Dog

Mail Buoy Watch

Old salts (seasoned seamen) will send a sailor on the mail buoy watch, particularly if they are experiencing bad weather. A sailor is outfitted in the appropriate weather gear, including a helmet and life jacket. They are also harnessed to a safety line on the weather decks topside near the bow and given a large hook. They are told that the mail plane (COD) arrives with all the mail. However, the sailor is told that this cannot be done due to the weather, so he must use a pair of binoculars and watch out for a mail buoy. They will need to hook onto it and bring it aboard.

They are also advised that if they fail to do so, the crewmembers will not be happy with them. Usually, the old salts took photos of the sailor's "get up" before they headed to the fo'c'sle (the most forward part of the ship) and waited in the inclement weather, often for extended periods, to spot the buoy. However, the "mythical" mail deliverer will never arrive!

The victim of this prank usually realizes at some point that they have been had. If not, one of the old salts will likely take pity on them at some point and let them in on the joke. To this day, many sailors have been victims of this prank whereby they stand on mail watch for buoys that never arrive!

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





Bringing A Little South to the West

I HATE Okra! I have a good reason for making that statement, and it's not just because it is a green vegetable (which is reason enough) or because it tastes terrible (which is also reason enough).

Like many people in the 60's, my maternal grandparents worked a farm. They lived just outside the little town of Cherry Valley, Arkansas. They farmed cotton and soybeans on their hundred or so acres and had a huge garden. The term often used to describe this garden was a Truck Patch. They gardened to provide fresh fruits and vegetables for them and our family and sell them at a local market.

I call out those two crops individually because picking Okra, and Cucumbers required us to wear the latex gloves typically used when washing dishes. They were yellow, with long sleeves, and always too big. But you wanted to wear them because Okra and Cucumber have tiny and several spines that feel like little needles and, when coming into contact with your arms, cause itching and welts for days. But wearing the gloves didn't spare you from getting at least some of the spines to slip inside the sleeves and irritate your arms. Even now, my arms are starting to itch just thinking about it. In retrospect, it wasn't worth the \$0.50 a day we were paid, not that we had a choice. But at least we didn't have to do it for free. After the day's harvest, my grandparents would take the fruits of their labor (no pun intended) to Wynne, about 15 miles away. The roadside market had a small conveyor and shaker with different size slots. As my grandparents put the Okra, Cucumbers, and other vegetables on the various conveyors, it would shake and move the vegetables over the slots. If small enough, they would fall into buckets underneath the shaker. This would separate the vegetables by size. Only Cucumbers and Okra of a certain size would sell. The others would be returned to my grandparents to take home and eat or give to family and neighbors who weren't so particular.

All that aside, just in case I forgot to mention, I HATE Okra! It tastes terrible and doesn't even have a good name. Cucumbers, on the other hand, are pretty cool. They can be canned in many different ways and have flavor. And you can even use the word "Pickle" to describe an awkward or bad situation. I know many times I've found myself in a pickle. But I've never been in an Okra. See, it even sounds stupid!

I want to take a short side trip from this article for just a moment to share some thoughts related to a term mentioned above. We often find ourselves in a pickle when we stray away from our goals and mission. In The American Legion, like all other volunteer organizations, we sometimes lose our way when we allow ourselves to be distracted by things that shouldn't really matter. We let our private and personal agenda steer us from why we joined those groups.

I should stop writing now and find some calamine lotion for my arms. They're starting to itch, and I think I see red welts on my forearm. Now, that's enough to put me in a pickle. But I guess that's better than being in an Okra (see what I mean). I really HATE Okra!

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Young Guns



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

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

Scouting Programs

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



- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls): p24@legion209.org
- Cub Scout Pack 386 (Boys and Girls): p386@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 77 (Girls): t77@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 79 (Boys): t79@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 187 (Boys): t187@legion209.org
- Venture Crew 762 (Young men and women ages 14-20): c762@legion209.org

Boys and Girls State



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

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

Oratorical Contest



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

























www.colegionoratorical.org

Eagle Scout of the Year



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

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 | 2 Groundhog Day Executive Committee Meeting 6:00pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm | 3 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm  | 4 Refuse to be a Victim Seminar |
| 5 | 6 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  | 7 | 8 Marksmanship 4:00pm  | 9 Young Guns 6:30pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm | 10 Price TBD ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  | 11 Price \$10 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00   |
| 12 | 13 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm | 14 Valentine's Day Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  | 15 Marksmanship 4:00pm  | 16 Young Guns 6:30pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm | 17 \$12/Person Chicken Fried Steak 6:00pm RSVP Required!  | 18 Post 209 "Buddy Time" 9:00am - 11:00am  |
| 19 | 20 Presidents Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm | 21 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm.  | 22 Ash Wednesday Marksmanship 4:00pm  | 23 Honor Gd. 6:00pm  Young Guns 6:30pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm | 24 Price \$20 Jay"-Gerschnitzel Fun-Raising Dinner! 6:00pm RSVP Required!  | 25 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm |
| 26 | 27 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm | 28 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm   | Notes: | | | |

MARCH 2023

For the most current version see:
https://www.legion209.org/coming_up/

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| | | | 1 Marksmanship 4:00pm  | 2 Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm Ex. Cmte Meeting 6:00pm  | 3 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm  | 4 |
| 5 | 6 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  | 7 | 8 Marksmanship 4:00pm  | 9 Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  | 10 Price TBD SAL Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  | 11 Price \$10 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00   |
| 12 Daylight Saving Begins | 13 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm | 14 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  | 15 American Legion B'day! Marksmanship 4:00pm  | 16 Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  | 17 TBD St. Patrick's Day! St. Patty's Day Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required!  | 18 |
| 19 Troop 77 Lock-In | 20 Start of Spring Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm | 21 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm.  | 22 Marksmanship 4:00pm  | 23 Honor Gd. 6:00pm Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm   | 24 Price TBD Aux. Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required!  | 25 Troop 77 Lock-In Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm |
| 26 | 27 Navy B'day (Naval Act 1794) Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm | 28 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm   | 29 Marksmanship 4:00pm  | 30 Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  | 31 | Notes: |