



The Centennial

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AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL
POST 209



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

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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. Cmtman/Club Mgr:	Art Kimbrel	(719) 339-4610
Chaplain:	Bob "Odie" O'Donnell	(719) 432-6018
Immediate Past CDR:	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 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) 930-5725
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 2023-2024**

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



From the desk of the Commander

According to our Post By-Laws Article IV, Section 1 and Article X, Section 4 the General Membership meeting in May is designated as our Annual Meeting and as Post Commander I am required to give a State of the Post. This report is traditionally given at the Installation Dinner. The following is a summary of the report that I gave for those of you that we not able to attend the Installation Dinner.

Overall, we are doing GREAT! We have actively supported numerous events this past year. We participated in the Colorado Springs Veteran's Day parade, and in the Memorial Day Event at Pikes Peak Veteran's Cemetery with our own Jay Bowen giving the key note address. We held a 9-11 Remembrance walk at Memorial Park starting at the Veteran's memorial walking around the park visiting the Firefighters and Police memorials. We helped the Auxiliary to prepare goodie bags to give to the Police departments and this year handed out some to the Fire departments. We helped the ALR put together Thanksgiving food baskets so that families in need had something to put on their table for Thanksgiving this past year. We held our annual Halloween party for the children of our Post and then had our second annual Trunk or Treat for the community. We continue to be very active with the Oratorical contest and Boys/Girls State. We sent two contestants to the Oratorical contest and sponsored 15 boys to Boys State and 20 girls to Girls State. This year, along with Mitchell High School and Doherty High School, we added UCCS to our ROTC awards. We presented 3 JROTC medals to Mitchell High School cadets and 1 JROTC medal to a Doherty High School cadet. We presented 2 ROTC medals this year to UCCS cadets. Our Post hosted the final leg of the Pony Express Legacy Scholarship drive again this past year for the ALR and our Post collected over \$7,000 to donate. We continue to help out veterans in need and our support for the El Paso County Homeless Stand Down along with sponsoring 4 dinners for the Temporary Housing Initiative.

In case you haven't already heard our Post won the National award for Posts over 750 members for our website and our newsletter. Thanks to Steve Hayes and Georgianna "George" Shea for the hard work they did on the website and newsletter respectively.

We were honored this year to host the Secretary of the VA for a Town Hall held at the Post concerning the PACT Act. We also were honored to host the Auxiliary President's homecoming at our Post this year. We are still the largest post in the Department with several Post members serving on the District 7 staff and at Department. The National Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman (Jay Bowen) is a member of our Post and we also have a Past National Commander and Former First Lady (Tom & Elaine Bock) as active members. Our SAL Squadron hosted the CWF Banquet and the Awards Banquet this year at our Post.

Our Auxiliary, SAL, and ALR are all doing GREAT as well and growing. Our Honor Guard continues to do what it does and is the "go to" Honor Guard in the area. The Junior Shooting

program continues to do well and we once again hosted the National Junior Shooting Sports dinner at the Post for contestants in town for the National Contest.

I am sure that I have missed some other things that we have done over the past year but this gives you an idea of how busy we have been. I look forward to serving another year as your Post Commander. Thanks for all you to for the Post and to support veterans.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander



From our Post Adjutant

A deeper look into what being a Legionnaire means. This is a couple of years old (2020) and pulled from material supplied by National Adjutant Wheeler. The full text is on bulletin boards in the common area and the office. To me, what is expressed in the following vision and mission statements as well as the value principles and motto describe who we are and what we do here at Post 209. It does not replace the Four Pillars either; it enhances them with a description of how we operate as we go about our business of strengthening America.

The American Legion's vision statement declares our future and long-term directional goals: "The American Legion strengthens America by improving the lives of our veterans, the military and their families."

The American Legion's mission statement declares how we intend to fulfill our vision: "The American Legion strengthens our communities, states and nation with programs and services for our veterans, the military and their families."

The American Legion's value principles guide our business decisions and actions:

A VETERAN IS A VETERAN – *"The American Legion embraces all current and former members of the military and endeavors to help them transition into their communities."*

SELFLESS SERVICE – *"The American Legion celebrates all who contribute to something larger than themselves and inspires others to serve and strengthen America."*

AMERICAN VALUES AND PATRIOTISM – *"The American Legion advocates for upholding and defending the U.S. Constitution, equal justice and opportunity for everyone and discrimination against no one, youth education, responsible citizenship and honoring military service by observing and participating in patriotic and memorial events."*

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – *"The American Legion meets the unique needs of local communities."*

ADVANCING THE VISION – *"The American Legion educates, mentors and leads new generations of Americans."*

HONORING THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US – “The American Legion pays perpetual respect for all past military sacrifices to ensure they are never forgotten by new generations.”

The American Legion's motto encapsulates the vision and mission of our organization: “Veterans Strengthening America.”

Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant

So thank you, Legionnaire, for being who you are and doing what you do.

“Always Forward”

Doug Millison
Adjutant



From our Chaplain

In the month of June, the most known national celebration is WWII D-Day. Do you actually know what D-Day stands for? Apparently, it's the most frequently asked question at the National World War II Museum, but the answer isn't overly simple. Many experts have varying opinions, including that the D simply stood for "day," a code used for any important military operation.

While the true meaning remains up for debate, we'll go with what U.S. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower said about it through his executive assistant, Brig. Gen. Robert Schultz: "Be advised that any amphibious operation has a 'departed date;' therefore the shortened term 'D-Day' is used." He said there were actually several other D-Days during the war — Normandy was just the biggest and most well-known.

We also celebrate Fathers Day. One of the ideas for Father's Day began when a woman heard a Mother's Day sermon and decided that she didn't want all that her dad had done for her to go unrecognized. When you think about Father's Day, what comes to your mind? Can you relate to this woman who was concerned about taking her father for granted?

God Almighty is your Heavenly Father, and He is the perfect example of what it means to be a dad. Looking at each of the letters that make up the word "father," consider some of the characteristics that set Him apart and provide a model for our human dads.

F Forgiveness is a huge part of your relationship with your Father. He is willing and able to forgive you of any sin you commit if you will only ask Him. It's comforting to know that nothing you do is ever so bad that God won't forgive you (Romans 8:38-39; 1 John 1:9). Now, that's unconditional acceptance.

A He is active in your life all the time. God is always at work around you. Ask God to show you what He is doing. You will be amazed at all that is going on. More important, the invitation is open for you to get involved with Him. You never have to wait for your turn to be active with God (John 5:17).

T Time for you. While humans get too busy to do this or that, God always has time for you. Whenever you feel lonely, struggle with a problem, want to share a thought, or need to deal with a concern, He is there for you. You can't find a time in your day when He is too busy to talk or listen to you (Jeremiah 33:3).

H The heart of the matter is that God knows your heart, and He loves you anyway. Proverbs tells us that the heart is deceitful above all things. Some people may not want to be in your life if you make mistakes. God wants to be with you anytime, and He alone is able to change your heart to be all you were created to be (1 John 4:9-10,19).

E Everywhere sums up God's place in your life. There is nowhere you can go where He isn't with you. It can be encouraging to realize that when you are in a tough place in your life, He is right there with you. Whether other people are there or not, God is by your side (Romans 8:35-39).

R Rest and Read. These are two areas where most people could use a little work. Rest is important to you because it's easy to become so busy that you don't take time with the Lord. He wants you to set aside daily time to rest in Him and to read His Word. The Bible is His letter to His children. The best way to get to know your Father is to spend quality time resting and reading all about Him in His Word (John 14:21; Psalm 46:10).

All these attributes of God's character make Him who He is. If you have been blessed with an earthly dad who has a lot in common with our Heavenly Father, be grateful. If you have missed out on a relationship with an earthly dad, be thankful that God is there for you and wants to meet the needs in your life. Let God know how much He means to you.

Bob "Odie" O'Donnell
Chaplain Odie



From the desk of the Unit President

June is a very busy month. We have the ALA CO Girls State in Sterling. Some of our unit members will be attending as counselors, canteen & admin/photographer from June 14th to June 21st. Department Convention will be June 29-July 2.

We are continuing to work on the Active Duty Military Baby Shower. If you would like to help please let us know. We have our first "mom's to be" who have registered to attend.

Happy birthday to all of our members who were born in May & June!

Royce Hepper
Unit President
American Legion Auxiliary





From our Post Historian



“Don’t Give up the Ship!” were the dying words of James Lawrence, Captain of the U.S. frigate *Chesapeake*, during a 1 June 1813 battle with Royal Navy frigate *Shannon*. His devoted friend, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, had the sentiment sewn onto his personal battle flag and, in time, the declaration became the motto of the U.S. Navy.

The National Defense Act of 3 June 1916 authorized Congress to draft the National Guard into federal overseas service in the event of national emergency, which it invoked the next year during WW1.

The Battle of Midway (3-7 June 1942) was “the” turning point in the Pacific war with Japan. The American destruction of the Japanese carrier fleet began the costly three-year counteroffensive to push the Japanese back island by island.

6 June 1944 – “D-Day” – Operation Overlord commenced the long-anticipated WWII Allied invasion of Northwestern Europe– Allies landed nearly 150,000 troops on the Normandy coastline of France. Among those Americans in the first wave of landings on Utah and Omaha beaches was American Legion founding member, Brigadier General Theodore “Ted” Roosevelt Jr and his son, Captain Quentin Roosevelt. Awarded the Medal of Honor for his “gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty” that day, BG Ted Roosevelt’s citation reads:

After two verbal requests to accompany the leading assault elements in the Normandy invasion had been denied, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt’s written request for this mission was approved and he landed with the first wave of the forces assaulting the enemy-held beaches. He repeatedly led groups from the beach, over the seawall and established them inland. His valor, courage, and presence in the very front of the attack and his complete unconcern at being under heavy fire inspired the troops to heights of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice. Although the enemy had the beach under constant direct fire, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt moved from one locality to another, rallying men around him, directed and personally led them against the enemy. Under his seasoned, precise, calm, and unfaltering leadership, assault troops reduced beach strong points and rapidly moved inland with minimum casualties. He thus contributed substantially to the successful establishment of the beachhead in France.



In the distance of history, when America unashamedly asserted itself as defender of freedom and leader of the free world, President Ronald Reagan, the finest Commander-in-Chief under which your historian proudly served, stood at the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin on 12 June 1987 and challenged the Soviet leader to “dramatically advance the cause of freedom and

peace...Mister Gorbachev, tear down this wall...” Within two years, the German people felt emboldened to confront the Communist oppressors and began dismantling the Berlin Wall and reuniting their nation.

On 14 June 1775, the Continental Congress first authorized ten companies of riflemen, drawn from different colonies, creating a “Continental Army,” the forerunner of the U.S. Army.

The Continental Congress adopted a resolution on 14 June 1777 that determined “the flag of the United States be thirteen alternate stripes red and white...and the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.” A century later, the first “Flag Day” observance was held 14 June 1877 on the 100th anniversary of the “Stars and Stripes” adoption.



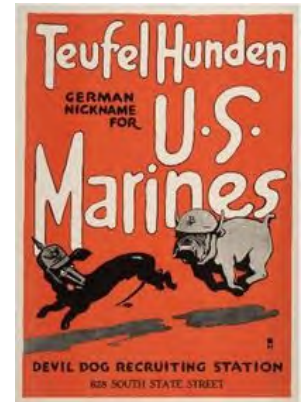
New England militiamen positioned on the high ground above Boston harbor on Bunker Hill (and Breed’s Hill) faced a frontal assault of the British army on 17 June 1775. Reportedly ordered to hold their fire “until you see the whites of their eyes,” the Patriot militiamen inflicted over 1000 casualties on the British army before retreating into the Boston countryside. Although considered a British victory, the Battle of Bunker Hill busted the British myth of an anticipated easy victory over “undisciplined”

American amateur soldiers.

A combined force of Sioux and Cheyenne warriors under the leadership of Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse devastated a considerable portion of George Custer’s 7th Cavalry on 25 June 1876 in the worst American army defeat of the Plains Indian Wars. News of the demoralizing Battle of the Little Bighorn reached a stunned American nation on the eve of national Centennial celebrations.

The Battle of Belleau Wood (1-26 June 1918) was the first large-scale battle fought by the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) during WW1, resulting in nearly 10,000 U.S. casualties. American Marines particularly distinguished themselves in the ferocious hand-to-hand fighting, reportedly described by their German adversaries as “Devil Dogs” (Teufel Hunden), which the USMC proudly utilized in their recruiting efforts.

30 June 1950 – President Truman ordered American forces to South Korea after the surprise Soviet-backed Communist North Korean invasion. This marked the first time the UN Security Council had approved the use of military force.



Kurt Skinner
Historian





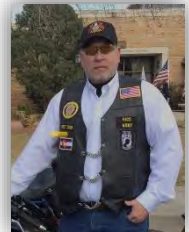
From our American Legion Riders

We are now in full motorcycle riding season; you will see many of our ALR 209 members out on the roads participating in the many charity events sponsored by Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) and Motorcycle Clubs (MCs) across Colorado. If you are not aware, here are some of our ALR 209 events that we are hosting at the post.

- ALR 209 Dinner on Friday, 9 June @ 6:00 PM its our ALR Famous Taco Bar
- ALR 209 Memorial Run on Saturday, 17 June @ 9:00 AM
- The Colorado Pony Express Run on Saturday, 8 July @ 2:00 PM
- The Annual Centennial Poker Run on Saturday, 22 July @ 9:00 AM
- ALR 209 Dinner on Friday, 25 August @ 6:00 PM for Philly Cheesesteaks
- Neal Thomas Jr Memorial Run on Saturday, 24 September @ 9:00 AM
- ALR 209 Dinner on Friday, 13 October @ 6:00 PM The Oktoberfest Jager Schnitzel

Our ALR 209 events are family friendly, and we encourage any of the American Legion 209 family to come out and support any of these events. We always have many nice raffle prizes and silent auction items at our Centennial Poker Run to bid on. If you don't ride a motorcycle, no problem, cars are always welcome at our poker run and memorial run events.

Jerry "RACO" Shay
President of American Legion Riders





From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

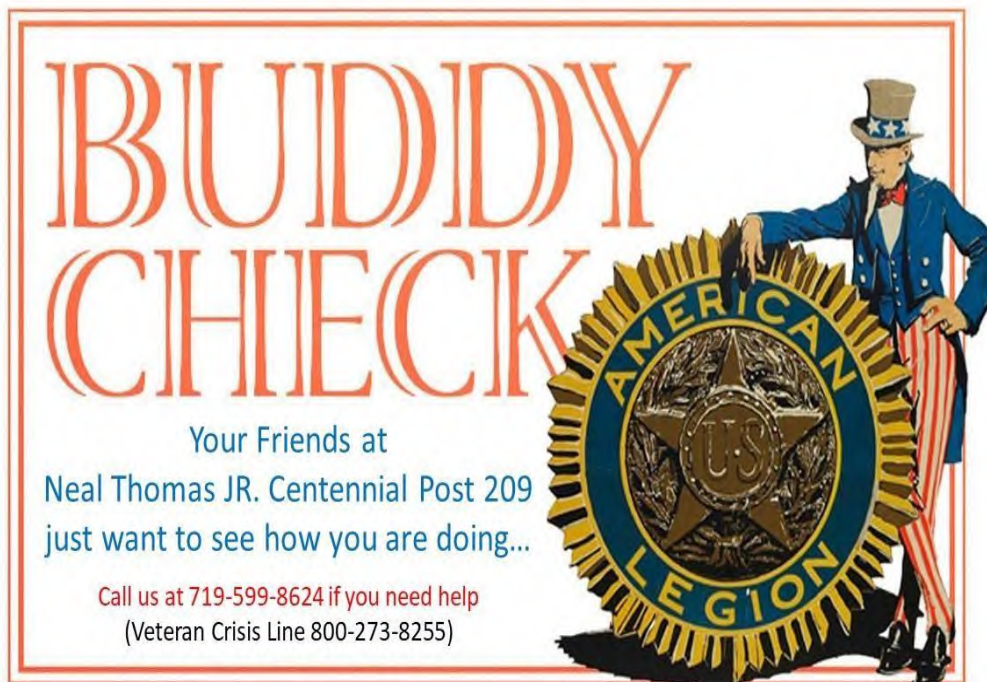
After experiencing our recent installation, it has again shown me what great people we have around us. It was pointed out that no one can remember the last time the SAL has had a full roster of officers. We have been blessed with a great group of new faces that I believe are going to make this year the best yet. I would like to personally thank each and every one of you for your selfless commitment to this organization.

With the season warming up, there have already been a number of red flag days. Always be prepared wherever you live. Work on fuel mitigation around your home. The last few weeks have been very rainy. It has helped with our thirsty lawns, and rinsed off the winter grime on the roads. The fields are green and beautiful, and lush. In the next month, we all know the dry summer hits. All of those beautiful fields will dry up and become fire fuel. Be prepared for another wild season and be safe! Check your local resources for information in your area. Have a great summer and be safe!

Rob Barry

Commander

Sons of The American Legion 209





From our JSSP Young Guns Captain

The Spring Junior Shooting Sports Program (JSSP) courses held their awards night on Wednesday April 19. The Young Guns course graduated eight (8) new shooters, with many of them expected to participate in the Fall 2023 Marksmanship course. The seven (7) new Marksmanship course students received their NRA Air Rifle Qualification patch. The thirteen (13) Marksmanship course students earned their rockers/tabs for a combined: seven (7) Pro-Marksman, eight (8) Marksman, and three (3) Sharpshooter. The Spring Marksmanship course ended with five (5) students actively shooting to earn their Expert qualification, a VERY difficult level to achieve, with one of the students being a new Marksmanship shooter for the Spring course. In a nutshell, this goes to show the level of talent these youth are exhibiting and their dedication to learning and improving shooting skills.

The Young Guns course provides youth ages 10-18 years old (boys and girls) the opportunity to learn about firearms safety and basic shooting skills. During the course, NRA Basic Rifle Instructors teach 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 JSSP needs your assistance to continue to provide the quality training opportunity to our local youth. Due to the loss of several instructors over the last couple of years, we need more instructors now more than ever. There are three courses required to become an instructor for the Post 209 Junior Shooting Sports Program: NRA Basic Rifle Course, NRA Basic Instructor Training (BIT) Course, and NRA Basic Rifle Instructor Course. In an effort to help reduce the costs associated with taking the courses, there is an NRA Basic Rifle Instructor Course scheduled for Sunday June 11 from 8:00am – 3:00pm (classroom) at Post 209 and 4:00pm-5:30pm (live fire) at Frontier Sportsman Club in Falcon. The course cost is \$50 per student to cover course costs (including training materials, lunch, and ammunition), a significant reduction as compared to other courses offered in the area. There is a minimum of four students needed to hold the course, so sign ups **MUST** be made not later than Wednesday May 31 to allow time for NRA materials to be ordered. An NRA BIT Course and NRA Basic Rifle Instructor Course are being worked out in coordination with a Post 209 member and local Scouting instructors, with the costs yet to be determined (though expected to be much lower than the standard costs in the area). Please feel free to contact me for more information on what an instructor's duties are for each course, costs of becoming an instructor, or any other questions you may have about the program.

The JSSP Marksmanship program is going to be adding NRA Air Pistol Qualification to the program in the Fall to students, by invitation only, already holding their Sharpshooter. This pilot program will help determine if the Air Pistol portion will continue, stay limited to selected students, or grow into its own scheduled discipline. The continuation of this trial beyond the fall will require additional NRA Pistol Instructors. Like the NRA Rifle Instructor training, the NRA Basic Pistol Course and NRA Basic Pistol Course Instructor Course are required (BIT is only required once every two (2) years). There will be more to follow on this subject in the future as the Air Pistol portion of the program is evaluated.

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

Joel W. Haas
JSSP Young Guns Captain



From our Honor Guard Captain

In addition to training for the support of the Honor Guard's primary mission, Final Honors, the Post 209 Honor Guard is also preparing for upcoming community events. There are already some pretty big events coming up this year that provide the Honor Guard to support our community. The Honor Guard will be supporting the Pikes Peak National Cemetery's (PPNC) Memorial Day event again this year on Monday May 29 at 10:00am. The rifle volleys will be followed by the cannons from the Colorado Military History Group, so come out to PPNC for a great event. If nothing else, you will get to see the cannons fired (which is pretty cool). The Honor Guard has also been asked to support The American Legion Post 9-11 carrying flags in the 4th of July Parade this year in Monument. A special honor for the team is being requested to do the Presentation of Colors at the annual Salute to Veterans Rally in Woodland Park on Saturday August 19. Since the number of personnel required for this event is larger than the number of team members available, we are looking into alternative solutions that will keep the Honor Guard from having to turn down this very special request.

Are you looking for a way to become involved with one (or more) of the activities at the Post? The Honor Guard team typically holds weekly meetings/practices at 6:00pm 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. Post 209 is also still trying to form a Competition Color Guard team to compete at The American Legion National Convention. This is another way to be involved and does not require prospective team members (tryouts required) to be members of the Honor Guard, though it is encouraged.

The Honor Guard continues to gain new team members; however, there is no such thing as having too many members. Understandably, not everyone has much time to participate in the Honor Guard. In reality, all someone needs is a few available hours: about an hour to participate a night (or even two) for a training meeting (a meeting is scheduled for every week, check the newsletter calendar) 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 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.

Joel W. Haas
Honor Guard Captain



From our Service Officer

To my fellow veterans,

The VA is working on reducing the number of homeless veterans! Please contact me if you or someone you know is in need.

Even though the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) exceeded its goal for reducing the number of homeless veterans in 2022, it has set the bar even higher for this year.

VA permanently housed 40,401 homeless veterans last year, surpassing its goal of 38,000, according to Shawn Liu, director of communications for VA's Homeless Programs Office.

Liu said VA set several goals for lowering the number of homeless veterans in 2023. VA seeks to:

- House at least 38,000 more veterans. (As of March, 10,885 veterans have been rehoused.)
- Ensure that at least 95% of veterans housed during this period remain off the streets. (As of March, the percentage was 98.5%.)
- Make sure that at least 90% of veterans who return to homelessness are either rehoused or on a path to being housed again. (As of March, the percentage was 83.1%.)

Help is available for veterans, as well as their family members and other supporters, who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans has trained counselors who are ready to talk confidentially 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Call 877-424-3838 or visit va.gov/homeless.

Brian J Murphy, LCSW, MSW

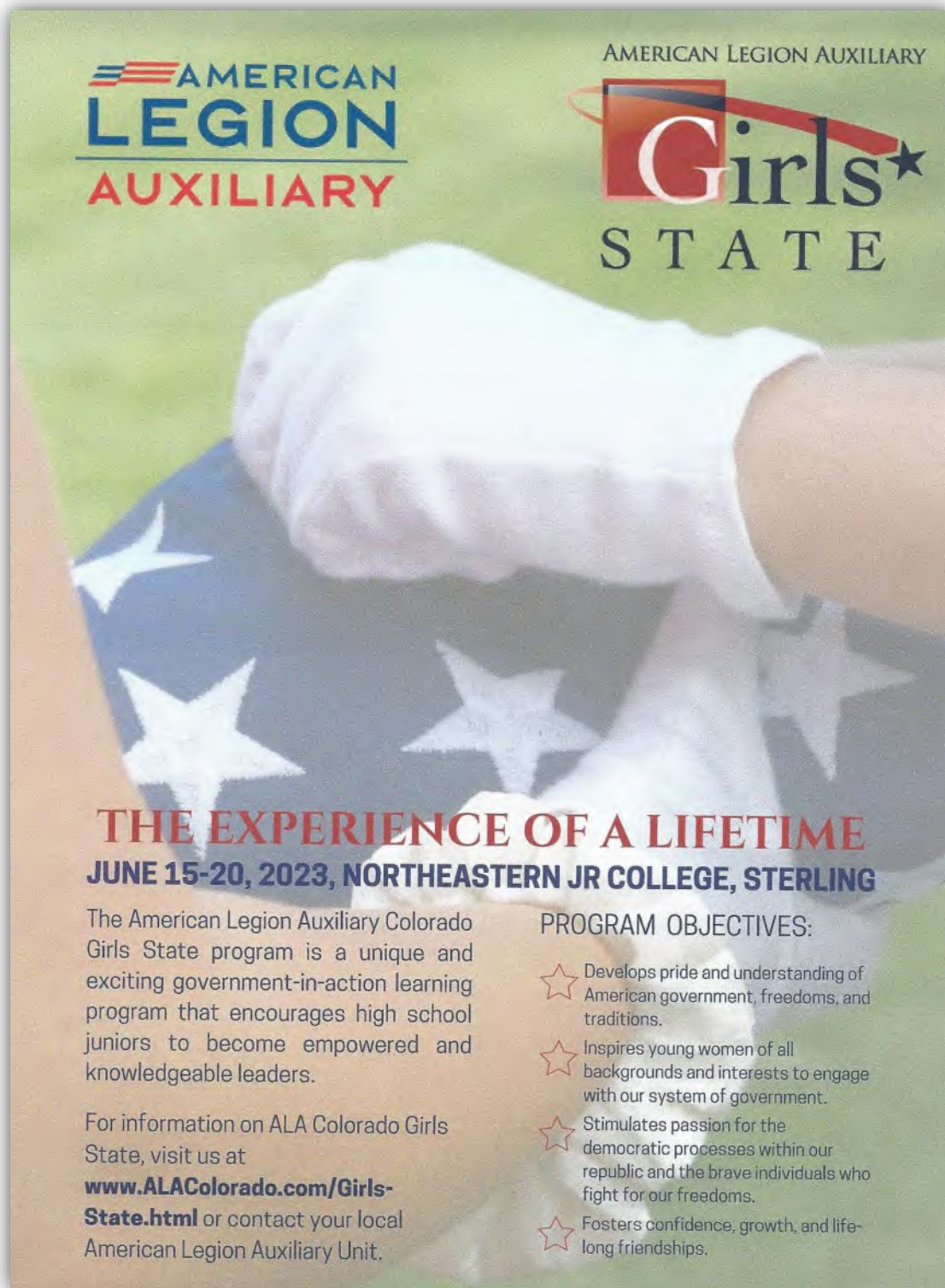
VA/DoD Liaison Program

Office: 719-526-9675 Cell: 719-930-4147

Brian.Murphy3@va.gov or Brian.J.Murphy44.civ@mail.mil



UPCOMING EVENTS



**AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

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.



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



The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 & Friends Active-Duty Military Baby Shower.

The Auxiliary's Baby Shower mission is to reduce the stress of expectant parents, and new families of active-duty military families.

WHEN: Saturday, September 16, 2023, 10 a.m. — 2 p.m.

WHERE: The American Legion Neal Thomas Jr.

Centennial Post 209


3613 Jeannine Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917

Contact: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209

Email: alaaux209@yahoo.com

**Military Families:
Tell us about your
needs.
Scan the QR Code to
register to attend.**



 **SCAN ME**

**Donations will be distributed
to Expectant and/or families
with babies 2 months or
younger of servicemembers
and/or spouses E5 and
below.**



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.

As of January, the post is 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.



June's Buddy Time is **June 17th, 0900 – 1100**. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

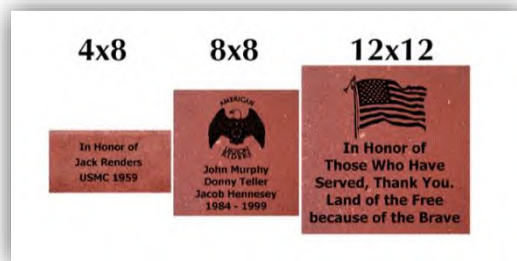


FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

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.

Announcing the return of Monday Night

BINGO

to Carefree Bingo at 3440 Carefree Circle North, CS/CO, 7 P.M.

Come on out and support
Neal Thomas JR – Centennial
American Legion Post 209 while
we raise money for our
charitable
programs in support of veterans,
our youth and the community.



"VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA"

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



Looking for a New Publisher

As previously mentioned, due to an increased workload, Georgianna (a.k.a. George) Shea had to step down as *The Centennial* Publisher.

As a result, we are looking to our Post 209 family (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, and/or ALR) for someone to step up and serve as Publisher. I will stay on as the Editor. This is not a time-consuming job. I would estimate 4-5 hours a month is all that is needed to publish our newsletter.

This can be a truly rewarding opportunity for you to get to know many of our Post members and officers through their contributions, despite the lack of face-to-face interaction. Serving as our Publisher should be considered an honor to be part of such a dedicated group of individuals who share a common passion for supporting our veterans and contribute to making a positive difference in their lives.

Please consider the position as Publisher for the newsletter. I am confident that many talented and qualified individuals within our community would be eager to take on this role and continue the great work we have done. Contact me if you are interested at legionnairejay@yahoo.com

Thank you in advance for your consideration. I look forward to seeing the continued success of *The Centennial* newsletter.

Jay Bowen

Editor

letters@legion209.org





Salty Dog

Red sky at night, sailors delight.

When we see a red sky at night, this means that the setting sun is sending its light through a high concentration of dust particles. This usually indicates high pressure and stable air coming in from the west. Basically, good weather will follow.

Red sky in morning, sailor's warning.

A red sunrise reflects the dust particles of a system that has just passed from the west. This indicates that a storm system may be moving to the east. If the morning sky is a deep fiery red, it means a high-water content in the atmosphere. So, rain is on its way.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

Post 209 Commander



The American Legion

Neal Thomas JR. Centennial Post 209



Veterans Strengthening America



Bringing A Little South to the West

My brother Eddie (a.k.a. Bubba) recently texted a picture of an unannounced visitor to his screened-in back porch. It was a 5-foot King Snake. I asked him what he did with it and he said he just “scooted” it off his porch. The visitor made his way underneath the porch. Bubba said he hopes the King Snake likes his new home because he wants it to hang around. This statement brought back many memories of my time visiting grandparents in rural Arkansas on their farms.



Even though we lived in suburbia Memphis, most of our weekends and summer vacations were spent with grandparents about 50 miles west in Northeastern Arkansas. Both sets of grandparents lived near each other and both were farmers, mostly cotton and soy beans. Because they lived relatively close together, being able to visit and spend time with both was easy. I have more memories of leisure time spent in Arkansas than growing up in Memphis, which is probably why my mind flooded with some of the several encounters with what Bubba calls “no shoulders.”

Running across snakes in rural Arkansas was as common as tornados in Kansas. It was something you learned to deal with if you chose to live there. Most of our interactions with snakes were with non-venomous types, but there were plenty of poisonous snakes around as well. Both grandfathers had a standing rule, they didn’t care what you did when you ran across a snake with the exception of a King Snake. Those you leave alone. I don’t know of any farmer who didn’t try to keep a King Snake around. They were great for killing and eating rats and mice, and they also kept other snakes, especially poisonous snakes from coming around. Even though the King Snake was non-venomous, it was a strong constrictor. That’s how they killed their prey.

So, we learned how to spot the various types of King Snakes. There were 3 or 4 varieties. One was the kind Bubba had show up at his place. There is another variety that looks similar to a Coral Snake with brightly colored bands. Coral Snakes are some of the most-deadly snakes in the US, but they are typically found in wooded or timber lands. There’s an old saying that goes, “red touch black, venom lack; red touch yellow, kill a fellow.” We never saw a Coral Snake, but we did come across several banded King Snakes, as well as the one in the picture above and the speckled King Snake, a variety very hard to confuse with any other breed.

While there were several occasions where we encountered snakes, there’s only a few that I seem to often recall. One of those occurred relatively early morning while visiting Granny and Granddad (Dad’s parents). Their farm butted up against a slough or channel of the L’Anguille (pronounced Lang-Ghee) river. Mom and Aunt Alta Mae decided to get in some fishing before breakfast so they walked the short distance to the slough. When they didn’t come back after a couple of hours, Dad, Granddad, Uncle Troy, me and Bubba went looking for them. We discovered them standing very quiet and still on the bank of the slough. Dad called out, and even though we could see them, they stood very quiet and didn’t answer. When we approached, we found out why. Between them was a coiled-up Cottonmouth, a venomous snake commonly referred to as a Water Moccasin. He laid there watching, apparently trying to determine if they intended him harm or maybe even wondering what they were.

When we realized what was going on, Granddad calmly picked up a pretty thick tree branch, walked up to the Cottonmouth, and slammed its head into the mud. I don't know if he actually killed it, but that gave all of us the time we needed to leave. My Mom and Aunt were obviously grateful for the intervention, but Mom said she was upset because she had gotten several bites on her fishing line while having to stand statue-still. To add to their adventure, Mom said that at one point, a Bobcat was in a tree near them just staring, apparently trying to figure out what his options may be. Bobcats are not normally aggressive, but it wasn't just the Cottonmouth or the Bobcat who was considering options. Fortunately for Mom and my Aunt, they didn't have to decide whether to fight or run because there was someone else apparently watching over them. God picked their course of action, which was to do nothing.

I guess no matter where you live, there is going to be something like snakes, bears, mountain lions, bobcats, or all of the above you have to learn to live with in harmony. The trick is to learn to live in harmony with those critters. That's really not unlike the two-legged critters we have to learn to live in harmony with if we want to have a peaceful life. Given the choice, I would choose the four-legged or no shoulders type. They only attack if provoked or startled. The two-legged types will attack for fun or to make themselves appear more powerful.

Jay Bowen
Past Commander



The Department of Colorado is Going On Trial!

On Saturday, 10 June, the elected and appointed officers for The American Legion, Department of Colorado will be going on trial at our Department Headquarters at 7465 E. 1st Ave., Denver to answer four or more charges ranging from misappropriation of funds to creating a hostile work environment. Our Department Executive Committee has until 31 May to respond to the charges and to identify the spokesperson for our Department.

If found guilty on any/all charges, the National Executive Committee (NEC) has the authority to cancel, suspend, or revoke our Department Charter. If this happens, all elected and appointed Department officers will be required to step down and the NEC will likely appoint someone to serve as an Administrator to help re-constitute our Department leadership.

The trial is open to all Legion family members (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, ALR) and anyone interested in watching the proceedings. All are encouraged to attend. The Trial is expected to be conducted by the National Department Advisory Committee consisting of our National Judge Advocate, along with five Past National Commanders, and is expected to only last one day. The findings and recommendation will be presented to the NEC for resolution.

For the Trial start time and more information, contact our Post Adjutant, Doug Millison.



District 7 Convention 2023 News!

On Saturday, 20 May, The American Legion, Department of Colorado's District 7 met in Florence for their annual Convention. All but two Posts were in attendance and participated in the Convention. There was much discussed and shared, and the highlight of the Convention was the election of officers to lead our District for the 2023-2024 year. They are:

Commander - Sarah Tobin, Post 209

Sr. Vice Commander - Doug Millison, Post 209

Jr. Vice Commander - Andrea Finnegan-Fosse, Post 5

Finance Officer - Lino Calica, Post 209

Chaplain - Dan Rohrer (sp), Post 25

Sgt-at-Arms - Tom Coca, Post 39

Department Exec. Committeeman - Marvin Weaver, Jr., Post 209

Historian - Vacant

There are three positions to be appointed by the new Commander with approval by the District Executive Committee. Those positions are:

Adjutant

Judge Advocate

Service Officer

If interested in serving in any of the above appointed positions, or as the District Historian, contact Commander-Elect Tobin at legion209smash@outlook.com. The new District leadership team will assume their responsibilities immediately following our Department Convention on 2 July.

I want to offer a heartfelt congratulations to this new slate of officers. I know they will serve our District and the Posts within the District well. I, along with all Past District Commanders and Past Department Commanders stand ready to assist them. When you see them, please congratulate these Legionnaires for stepping up to serve and showing they are ready to **Be Part Of The Solution!**

Lastly, another major accomplishment during this year's Convention was the approval and ratification of our revised and updated District 7 Constitution and By-Laws. Look for the revised versions to be published soon.

More to follow.

Jay Bowen
Past Department 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/>

June 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
The Legion will not conduct our monthly membership meeting on 10 June. The Auxiliary will meet.				1 Executive Committee Meeting 6:00pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm	2 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	3
4	5 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	6	7	8  Venture Crew 7:00pm	9 Price TBD ALR Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	10 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00 
11 JSSP NRA Basic Rifle Instructor Course 8:00am-3:00pm 	12 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	13 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	14 Flag Day/Army B'day! Happy B'day US Army!	15  Venture Crew 7:00pm	16 \$16/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	17 Post 209 "Buddy Time" 9:00am - 11:00am 
18 Father's Day	19 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	20 ALR Exec. Mtng 6:30pm. 	21 Summer Solstice Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	22  Venture Crew 7:00pm	23 Price TBD Auxiliary Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	24 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
25 Girls State Sponsor Dinner 5:00pm 	26 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	27 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	28	29 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm Venture Crew 7:00pm Department Convention  	30 Department Convention	Notes:

July 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Department Convention
2 Department Convention	3 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	4 Indep. Day Post 209 Independence Day Picnic! 12:00pm	5	6 Executive Committee Meeting 6:00pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm	7	8 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00 2:00pm  Flag Disposal Ceremony
9	10 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	11 Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm	12	13  Venture Crew 7:00pm	14 Price TBD SAL Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	15 Post 209 "Buddy Time" 9:00am - 11:00am 
16	17 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	18 ALR Exec. Mtng  ALR 6:30pm.	19 Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm	20  Venture Crew 7:00pm	21 \$16/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	22 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
23	24 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	25 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	26	27 Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	28 Price TBD Auxiliary Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	29
30	31 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	Notes:				