



The Centennial

Volume XIV
Edition 9

September 2023

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL
POST 209



Our new Fence, thanks to Eagle Scout Gunnar Foley! Photo by Steve Hayes.

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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 2023-2024

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Adjutant:	Doug Millison	(719) 599-8624
Sr. Vice Commander:	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
Jr. Vice Commander:	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
Finance Officer:	Jeff Heischman	(719) 482-4357
Service Officer:	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
Judge Advocate:	Marvin Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Historian:	Kurt Skinner	(719) 963-3517
Exec. Committeeman:	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 2023-2024

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:	Ariel Foster	(719) 281-7965
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Historian:	Maria Alicea	(719) 900-8426
Sgt-at-Arms:	Michelle Bresee	



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2023-2024

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



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

September is one of those months that reminds people Christmas is coming. It is the first month of the "ber's". The weather starts to get a little cooler; unless mother nature gets mad and keeps us sweating in the heat. Fall is right around the corner. Football starts back up with all the college games on Saturday and the NFL on Sunday. Or lately college games on Thursday, Friday and Saturday; and NFL on Thursday, Sunday and Monday. I can remember when Friday was reserved for High School Football but that is probably best kept for another time.

September also includes the day most of us can remember as one of the worst days our country has seen next to Pearl harbor Day. You all know that we were attacked by terrorists at the New York twin towers, Washington DC at the pentagon, and the plane that was taken down by hero passengers in Pennsylvania. The crashed plane definitely brings up a lot of debate as to where it was going and we will probably never know with certainty its destination.

For many, this horrible event led to an increase in military recruiting. We all served honorably and did what we had to do to get the job done. Not all of us were in direct combat, but all of our jobs were important. While we served, we developed a bond with our fellow service members that is just like being a brother or sister. We would do anything for each other and we looked out for our buddies. This is one reason most of us joined The American Legion. We are able to develop the bond that we had while serving our country. We may not have performed the same job or even served together, but we all know what the other went through and can share in the experiences or as us Navy folks call it, share some sea stories.

This bond is also one reason The Legion's "*Be The One*" campaign is so vital. We all have heard the reports of 22 veterans a day that commit suicide. This is an unacceptable number that we can help reverse. The comradery that brought us to join The Legion can be used to help "*Be The One*." When talking to a fellow veteran listen to what they are saying. If they are in a bad way make sure and let them know that you are there for them to talk. If you haven't heard from one of your buddies give them a call just to check in with them. It may not be a bad thing that they haven't been in touch, but everyone likes to get a call and realize someone is thinking of them. This is one of the reasons for the Legion's Buddy Check program; not just to prevent suicide but to let people know someone is thinking about them. If you encounter a buddy or a veteran that is in need of help you don't have to be the one to fix them but be available to talk with them when they are going through a rough patch. When doing this for your buddy don't forget about yourself. As always if needed call the Veterans Crisis Line (see number above).

Once again, I thank you for all you do to help veterans and our Post.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





From our Post Adjutant

Legionnaires; As you complete your renewals this weekend, please pay attention to the following:

In the lower right corner of your renewal reminder is a notice that even though you renew now, it is still possible to receive another renewal notice. If you do get another notice just disregard it. There is no need to let me know unless you have renewed over 3 weeks ago and you still have not received your 2024 card. Then contact me and we'll look into it.

The information we have on our roster is printed on the back. If any of it is incorrect just line it out and correct it, and if any is missing, please add it in and return it with your dues. If you have a MyLegion account, you can make changes there also. (If you do, please let me know)

2024 DUES NOTICE	
is, IN 46206-1954	
p for 2024 Auto Renew.	AMOUNT DUE \$45.00
RENEW	PLEASE REPLY BY August 4, 2023
	Member ID# [REDACTED]
<p>AMERICAN LEGION CO POST 0209 3613 JEANNINE DR COLORADO SPRINGS CO 80917-8002</p> <p>Please disregard this notice if you have already paid your membership renewal for 2024.</p> <p>AS OF: 05/23/2023 24-1A 7CO NT</p>	

Thank you for renewing your membership!

Gary, Please review and make any updates to your personal information online at: MyLegion.org. If you do not currently have an account, create one by clicking REGISTER and following the easy instructions. You may also make any changes to your information below and return this form, with your renewal payment, in the furnished reply envelope.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] DR
COLORADO SPRINGS CO 80922-3640

Phone Number: [REDACTED] ← *Add email please*
Email: [REDACTED]
Branch of Service: **U.S. NAVY**
Service Period: **VIETNAM**

And if you missed making those corrections, I will send you one of these with your card...

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POSTS: DO NOT SEPARATE THE NATIONAL AND DEPARTMENT CARDS. www.legion.org ON THE REVERSE SIDE 017023

...except it will have your data on it. Please fill in the missing data (or do the MyLegion thing) and get it back to me. Bring it to a dinner or meeting, email or phone it in, mail it, etc.

And as a side note, only your earliest service period will show up on your reminder and card data form. If you marked them on the application, we added it to your file in the data base but they will not print out.

“Always Forward”

Doug Millison
Adjutant



From our Senior Vice Commander

RENEW! RENEW! RENEW!!! We are at 50% now – keep the momentum going! Everyone who joins or renews on/before October 15th, gets a free meal at our Early Bird dinner on Friday, October 20th!!! Remember - the easiest way to stop receiving renewal notices is to send in your renewal now. There are several ways that you can send in your renewal. You can send a check by mail to 3613 Jeannine Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917; bring it to the Post in person and give it to our Adjutant, Doug Millison (He is processing memberships on Tuesdays); or renew through the national website. If you register through the national website, you can check auto-renew and all renewal notices will cease as long as you keep your method of payment current. We have a link on the Post website for all options and a form to submit if you have questions: <https://legion209.org/renewlegion/>. The best time to renew is right now as you are reading this!!!

If you haven't been by the Post recently, swing by and check out the new fence! If you remember from the July membership meeting, Gunnar Foley, one of our Scouts from Venture Crew 762, pitched funding for his Eagle Scout project. On 5 August, Gunnar started and completed his project, which enclosed an area at the South and Southwest portion of the lot with a six-foot privacy fence to provide secure storage for our trailer and other items. This is a super addition to our Post property. Gunnar and his fellow Scouts and unit their leadership did an AWESOME job on the project – it looks professionally done!



Steve Hayes
Senior Vice Commander





From the desk of the Unit President

The baby shower we have been working on all year is finally happening on the 16th. If you are available, we would love to have you come in to help, visit, & participate. This is the first time we have done such a large event like this so any participation we can get will be helpful.

We are still collecting new baby items in the box located next to the ATM in the Entry at the Post. We will be collecting items up until the night before the Baby Shower on the 16th.

At the end of September on the 29th, we will be co-hosting the Victory Service Dogs Fundraiser dinner. Once again, we will be asking for assistance with everything from set up, cooking, cleanup, helping at the puppy adoption booth, or helping at the puppy kissing booth which is going to be a new addition this year. We are asking Rufus Senter to be our Post Mascot/VSD Ambassador for this event again this year with his "official" signature on the adoption certificates.

To all of our members who celebrated birthdays in both August & September, I hope you all had/or will have, a FABULOUS birthday!!!!

Royce Hopper

**Unit President
American Legion Auxiliary**



We've Changed!

After more than 12 years serving our Post and community and as Club Manager, Art Kimbrel is stepping aside to allow others with a strong desire to serve. His duties are being split up among several people, and Art will still be engaged to serve as advisor and to mentor the folks who will be taking over his responsibilities. A couple of the big changes are in food service and rentals. Kellie Hayes is taking over meals and Royce Hopper, along with Jackie Bowen will handle Post rentals.

Kellie has some great ideas about meals that you will see and hear about in the very near future. She will also be looking to you, our members for ideas and possibly even serving as "guest chef" if desired.

Mere words can't adequately express our appreciation and gratitude to Art for his many years of service. He has been key to our continued growth, and the care and maintenance of our Post home, and we're extremely happy he will be staying on to mentor and train his replacements. He will also continue to serve our members as the Post Executive Committeeman. The primary purpose for that position is to ensure our Post members are represented as decisions are made by our Post Executive Committee.

Stay tuned to The Centennial, our Facebook page, and our website to find out what we're doing. You'll like it!



Letters to the Editor...from the Editor pro tem

Do you have a recommendation for *The Centennial*? Or maybe you want to comment on a recent article, or you have something you want to share as a guest contributor to our monthly newsletter. If so, just go to award winning website at <https://legion209.org/newsletters/> and click on the first bullet. That will take you to our letters page. Or you can send an email to letters@legion209.org and send your thoughts. If you don't have access to email, or if you don't feel comfortable sending a message via email, no problem. Send your thoughts to:

Letters to the Editor, C/O American Legion Post 209
3613 Jeannine Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80917

We reserve the right to edit for size and content. And, we will not publish a letter without a name.



From our Chaplain

Colossians 3:14 (Amplified Bible):

Beyond all these things put on and wrap yourselves in [unselfish] love, which is the perfect bond of unity [for everything is bound together in agreement when each one seeks the best for others].

Who can forget where they were on September 11, 2001. It was a day that defined our generation. It is hard to believe it has been 22 years since the events that unfolded that day. Americans still remember 9/11 with tear-choked tributes and pleas to "never forget" after all these years. It was one of the deadliest terror attacks on U.S. soil.

"It took a tragedy to unite us. It should not take another tragedy to unite us again," said Andrew Colabella, whose cousin, John DiGiovanni, died in the 1993 bombing World Trade Center bombing that presaged 9/11."

I remember people gathering along roads waving American flags. Neighbors checked on each other to make sure they were OK and to lend a helping hand or a listening ear to each other. Patriotism was evident at sport gatherings, etc., while we as a nation joined together to mourn and honor those who were lost. Stories of heroic events were shared about those who sacrificed their lives that day and about how providence directed some not to be at the Twin Towers that day. People were united by the horrific events that unfolded back in September 2001.

Yet, today, our country is so divided. Unity is hard to find. We are divided in so many arenas and it is hard to find common ground. God forbid that we must face another national tragedy to again unite as a people that cherish the freedoms on which our great nation was founded.

What are we to do?

I submit for your consideration that our starting point is to try to bring unity in our individual spheres of influence. Be a neighbor to those in your life. Our Heavenly Father desires us to live in unity with one another, so it is important to make every effort to live together in harmony with everyone. Regardless of beliefs and differences, we are encouraged to do all in love. Life is messy,

relationships are messy. Times of stress can strain relationships and we end up hurting each other and destroying the unity we have worked hard for. However, let us fight together toward living in peace and harmony. Let us exercise patience, kindness, and love through actions and words.

Scriptures encourage us to lean towards unity among all nations and people through how we treat others with whom our lives intersect.

We are encouraged in Philippians 2:3 (Amplified Bible):

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit [through factional motives, or strife], but with [an attitude of] humility [being neither arrogant nor self-righteous], regard others as more important than yourselves.

We can stand together as children of God to remember and mourn those who were lost on 9/11 and in the battles that followed.

We can purpose in our hearts to honor those who have served since 9/11 and the sacrifices they have made.

Many have fought for our freedom as they served for our country and in our communities to keep all safe.

This is why September is to celebrate and to remember those lost their lives and those who have wounds that still affect them today.

Pray for those who mourn.

Make individual choices to try to restore unity with those who you “do life” with.

Let us pray that we will not have to face another tragedy to unite us, but that we can find unity with one another despite our differences.

Let it begin with me.

If you have any spiritual needs (prayer, praises, blessings, death in family, etc.) I am here for you. If you just need someone to talk with for any reason, I am here for you. I don't have to know you or your family. Just reach out to me at bob.odonnell@comcast.net or 719-432-6018.

Bob "Odie" O'Donnell
Chaplain Odie



From our Post Historian

The third Friday in September (15 Sep 2023) is designated as National POW/MIA Recognition Day to honor those American servicemembers who were captured as prisoners of war and returned, in addition to those who remain missing in action. The purpose of the day is to ensure that Americans remember to continue the effort to account for those who served and sacrificed, and never have returned from our nation's wars.



Private First Class Thomas Michael Hanratty, born 19 June 1946 in Beulah, CO, served with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265, Marine Air Group 16, 1st Marine Air Wing, during the Vietnam War.

On 11 June 1967, PFC Hanratty was a crewmember aboard the lead CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter in a flight of four (one other CH-46 and two UH-1 Iroquois) on an insertion mission to land a patrol of Marines in hostile territory

north of Cam Lo, Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. The gunships made low strafing runs over the landing zone to clear booby traps and to locate any enemy troops in the area. The lead CH-46 then took intense enemy small arms fire while at low altitude. Portions of the rear blades were seen to separate from the aircraft and a radio transmission was received from the aircraft indicating that it had been hit. The helicopter became inverted and continued out of



control until it was seen to crash by a stream in a steep ravine. Personnel in other helicopters in the flight believed that there could have been no survivors. Searchers repeatedly attempted to reach the crash site over the next two weeks, but enemy forces prevented them from doing so until 30 June, when they found no evidence of survivors and no remains.

Today, Private First Class Hanratty is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, at Fort Logan National Cemetery, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Thank you for your service, Thomas. You are not forgotten.

“That was one day in my life and it happened a long time ago.”

--Medal of Honor recipient William Crawford

This month we look at the story of a local WW2 hero who earned the Medal of Honor in September 1943. Many veterans in Colorado Springs may be familiar with the name William “Bill” Crawford, namesake of the Crawford House, which operated from 2001-2022 as a homeless veterans’ resource center. William J. Crawford, born 19 May 1918 in Pueblo, CO, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1942 and served as a private with the 36th Infantry Division during the September 1943 Allied landings at Salerno, Italy.



Private Crawford was serving as squad scout on 13 September 1943 when his platoon attacked an enemy-held position near Altavilla, Italy. After reaching the crest of a hill, the platoon was pinned down by intense enemy machine-gun and small-arms fire. Locating one of these guns, which was dug in on a terrace on his immediate front, Crawford, without orders and on his own initiative moved over the hill under enemy fire to a point within a few yards of the gun emplacement and singlehandedly destroyed the machine gun and killed three of the crew with a hand grenade, thus enabling his platoon to continue its advance.

When the platoon, after reaching the crest, was once more delayed by enemy fire, Pvt. Crawford again, in the face of intense fire, advanced directly to the front midway between two hostile machine-gun nests located on a higher terrace and emplaced in a small ravine. Moving first to the left, with a grenade he destroyed one gun emplacement and killed the crew; he then worked his way, under continuous fire, to the other and with one grenade and the use of his rifle, killed one enemy and forced the remainder to flee. Seizing the enemy machine gun, he fired on the withdrawing Germans and facilitated his company's advance. Crawford and three others in the 36th Infantry were recommended for the Medal of Honor.



Following the battle, Crawford was reported missing in action and presumed killed; his father received his son's "posthumous" Medal of Honor in 1944.

Only with the Allied liberation of German POW camps in 1945 was it learned that Private William Crawford was indeed captured by Germans in September 1943 and held prisoner for the remainder of the war. Crawford remained in the U.S. Army and retired in 1964 as a master sergeant. He then quietly, humbly worked for many years as a janitor in the cadet dormitories at the U.S. Air Force Academy, until one day a cadet "discovered" that their unassuming custodian Mr. Crawford was, in fact, a WW2 war hero and Medal of Honor recipient.



neck.

When it was learned that William Crawford had never formally been presented his award, Academy leaders arranged for a formal ceremony as part of the 1984 USAFA graduation. The commencement speaker that year was President Ronald Reagan, who during the ceremony remarked, "...nearly forty years have gone by and it's time to do it right!" as he fastened the nation's highest military honor around Crawford's

When he died on 15 March 2000, MSGT William Crawford was buried at the U.S. Air Force Academy Cemetery, the only non-Air Force veteran to receive that distinction.

On another note, “Helping legal immigrants prepare for citizenship and assimilation into American society is in the best interest of our nation and has been a long-standing and proud tradition of The American Legion since its founding.” – *Mark Avis, Americanism Commission Chairman.*

We, as members of the nation’s foremost veterans service organization, can powerfully demonstrate our commitment to American values and instilling individual obligation to the nation by celebrating with our community’s newest U.S. citizens as they pledge their allegiance “to support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America.” Our participation at the next citizenship naturalization ceremony in Colorado Springs will show our support for legal immigration and pride in citizenship by gifting each new American citizen with their first U.S. flag! Your gift of \$25 will sponsor one all-weather U.S. flag and U.S. flag etiquette booklet to a new U.S. citizen. You can also include a sponsor note of congratulations if you wish. See the flyer on page 18 in this edition of *The Centennial*. Thank you in advance for your support of this initiative – please contact Kurt Skinner to reserve your flag today.

Kurt Skinner
Historian



From our Color/Honor Guard Captain

The team has unfortunately seen the loss of multiple members due to moving out of the area or being dropped due to inactivity. The loss of two very active members in March and July has had a big impact on the team’s ability to support events, especially Final Honors. In that time, we have only had one new member join the team. The team continues to support events with the personnel available, to include providing additional service when possible. The Honor Guard is fortunate to have personnel that can provide support when requested with Chaplain services, the playing of TAPS on the bugle (non-recorded), and the playing of bagpipes. This, along with the team’s overall dedication, makes the Post 209 Honor Guard a truly remarkable team.

The Honor Guard needs to gain more new team members in order to ensure we are able to continue supporting our veterans and our community. Understandably, not everyone has much time to participate in the Honor Guard. In reality, all someone needs are a few available hours: about an hour to participate a night for a training meeting (check the newsletter calendar or the calendar on the Honor Guard website - <https://legion209.org/honorguard209/>) and up to a couple of hours for an event. So around three hours a month for a meeting and just **ONE** event is all you need to make a difference in helping support our veterans and our community. Members of The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion, and The American Legion Auxiliary are all eligible to be members of the Honor Guard with all uniform items provided except Legion

family-specific cap and shoes. If you or someone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please reach out to me at: (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org.

Joel W. Haas
Honor Guard Captain



From our Junior Shooting Sports Team

The Young Guns Basic Course provides youth ages 10-18 years old (boys and girls) the opportunity to learn about firearms safety and basic shooting skills. During Young Guns, NRA Basic Rifle Instructors teach the safe handling of firearms, shooting positions (prone, kneeling, and standing), how to zero a rifle, and how to score targets. At the end of the course, the youth have a competition shoot against the others in the course in order to show off the skills they have learned. The Marksmanship Course provides graduates of Young Guns the opportunity to further develop their shooting skills.

On August 5, 2023 the first Young Guns Air Pistol Basic Course was held. Select students who have achieved Sharpshooter in the NRA Air Rifle Qualification program were invited to participate in the Air Pistol Basic Course. The course teaches the basics of air pistol shooting to include history, safe handling and use (including special instructions applicable to air pistols), shooting positions, targets and scoring, NRA Air Pistol Qualification program, and additional opportunities outside of the Post 209 JSSP. The three students who attended and completed the course have been invited to shoot for qualifications under the NRA Air Pistol Qualification program during a pilot offering for air pistols in the Fall 2023 Marksmanship Course. The JSSP instructors are looking forward to seeing Aloena, Ben, and Ellie shooting air pistols during the Marksmanship Course and helping shape the potential future of air pistol courses in the future.

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, an NRA Basic Rifle Instructor Course has been offered a couple of times without the minimum of four students signing up. Another course will be scheduled in early January, with the date to be announced in early November. 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, the costs of becoming an instructor, or any other questions you may have about the program. If you think that you might be interested in becoming an NRA Basic Rifle Instructor, feel free to come and observe the Marksmanship and/or Young Guns Courses starting in September (see dates/times below).

The Fall JSSP courses are taking applications for the Marksmanship Course starting Wednesday September 6th (4:45pm – 6:00pm, 5:45pm – 7:00pm, or 6:56pm – 8:00pm) and Young Guns Basic Course starting Thursday September 7th (6:15pm – 8:00pm), 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 Basic Course. If there is a youth that has already completed 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 Instructor



From our Post Service Officer

Colorado Veterans, Families, Caregivers, and Survivors: **are you receiving all the benefits and services you've earned?** Sign up for this **free and virtual event**. You'll get personalized, one-on-one assistance for all your health, benefits, and other Veteran resource needs.

[SIGN UP](#)

The Veterans Experience Action Center is exclusive for Colorado Veterans on **Tuesday, August 22nd and Wednesday, August 23rd from 9 a.m.– 3 p.m. MDT**. Make an appointment for the time that works best for you and VA will call you!

Appointments are filling up fast and are first come first serve, don't wait.

[MAKE AN APPOINTMENT](#)

- Need helping submitting a VA disability claim?
- Want to sign up for VA health care?
- Not sure what you are eligible for?
- Heard about PACT Act Agent Orange / Burn Pit Benefits?
- Want to check a status of your claim?
- Curious about VA burial options?
- Worried about your housing situation?

This is the event for you!

[SIGN UP](#)

Please also share this information with Veterans and their families who are not using VA benefits and services. This is the perfect event for them. Just sign up, show up, and we will take care of the rest.

Brian J Murphy, LCSW, MSW

Post Service Officer

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

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



From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

Its September 11, 2001 and I am sitting in the kitchen of fire station 10 watching the events unfold. You could hear a pin drop during these events. As we watched the towers collapse, we could hear the sound of the Personal Alert Safety System (PASS) devices going off. These are to notify other firefighters that a firefighter has not moved and needs help. That sound is forever ingrained in my mind and will never go away. That moment we knew that world would never be the same. I left the kitchen and lowered the flag.

After the attack, I offered to help with many honor guard activities in New York for the fallen. There were just not enough local members to cover all the funerals. I was honored, and met many new friends and families that suffered tragedies on that sad day.

When the attacks happened, I knew nothing would be the same. I heard many people say that is the day they joined the military. These are the same people I have the opportunity to work with now at The Legion. These people served their country with many going to war. They are now some of the veterans we honor.

September 11 is a day that changed our country, and the lives of so many people. This is a day that can never be forgotten. This year, get out and attend an event paying tribute to those that lost their lives on that day, and remember how it changed the world. Never Forget.

Rob Barry

Commander

Sons of The American Legion 209





From our American Legion Riders

September wraps up the summer motorcycle riding season. Many motorcycle riders consider Labor Day the end of the riding season and get their bikes ready for winter storage. NOT ALR 209. We ride pretty much year-round, weather permitting. In fact, we have the Neal Thomas Jr Memorial Run on Saturday, 24 September (All 209 members and All modes of transportation welcomed). We will also participate in multiple Toy Runs to collect toys for kids in the Pikes Peak Region (October-November).

Below you will find the next installment of the Rider of the Month. This month the spotlight is on Terry "Cyclone" Buxton. Terry and his wife Jennifer (Road Name-SCRAPPY) have been active members with ALR 209 for over a year. Both are loyal Indian Motorcycle riders and have both recently upgraded their rides. Cyclone has single handedly taken our disorganized ALR 209 supply program and turned it into a first-class operation. He has inventoried and determined accountability of all our ALR property/sensitive items while creating a hand receipt process to issue property and maintain accountability of all ALR 209 items.

The September 2023 American Legion Rider of the Month

NAME: Terry Buxton

ROAD NAME: Cyclone

(Name given by Royce & Kellie due to his HVAC career)

RIDES: 2023 Indian Pursuit Dark Horse Premium ICON

YEARS IN ALR: 1 Total in ALR 209

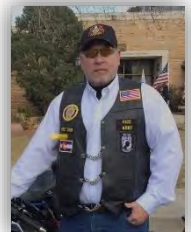
PART OF: American Legion and American Legion Riders

OFFICER: Logistics Officer, Assistant Sergeant at Arms

DETAILS: Terry "Cyclone" Buxton has been riding motorcycles since he was a teenager growing up back in Ohio. He blames his uncle for his motorcycle addiction who was his motorcycle mentor that taught him to ride bikes. After High School, Terry enlisted in the United States Army. He Served as a Military Police Officer for 7 years. He then continued his law enforcement career in the civilian sector as a Deputy Sheriff with the El Paso County Sheriff's Department. In 2020 he decided to change direction and learn HVAC. He is currently a Journeyman in the commercial HVAC industry.



Jerry "RICO" Shay
President, American Legion Riders



UPCOMING EVENTS



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.

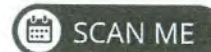
**WHERE: The American Legion Neal Thomas Jr.
Centennial Post 209**

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.



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.

The post is open solely for **social time**, typically 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.



Because we are hosting a Baby Shower on the third Saturday in September, our next Buddy Time will be **October 21st, 0900 – 1100**. We are looking forward to seeing you there.



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



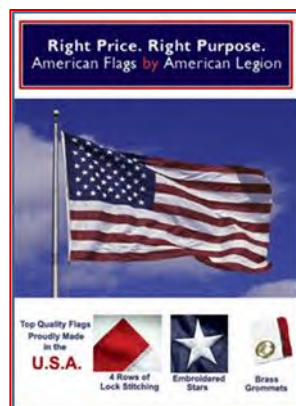
SPONSOR A U.S. FLAG TO A NEW AMERICAN CITIZEN

for presentation at the next
Citizenship Naturalization
ceremony in Colorado Springs



YOUR \$25 GIFT WILL PROVIDE:

- Made in USA All-weather U.S. Flag
- U.S. Flag Etiquette booklet
- Your sponsor gift note to the new citizen



**Contact Kurt Skinner
Post 209 Americanism Chair
To Sponsor Your U.S. Flag
TODAY!**

719-963-3517

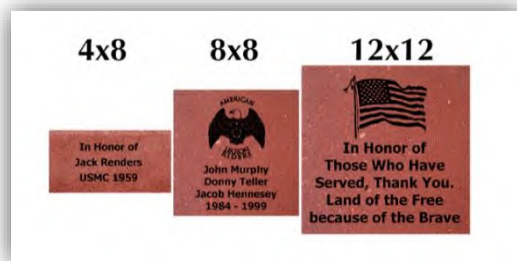
RoughRiderTR@gmail.com

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



Bringing A Little South to the West

If you've read many of my offerings, you may recall I often cite growing up in a suburb of Memphis, but I also frequently write about the time we spent helping our grandparents on their farms in Arkansas. This month I want to tell you a little about Cherry Valley, Arkansas.

Neither of my grandparents lived in town; both lived on and worked farms outside the little village of Cherry Valley. The exception was that Maw Maw (Mom's mother) moved into town after Paw Paw passed. She didn't want to live by herself on the farm, and I suspect there were just too many ghosts of my grandfather living in that house.

When our grandparents lived there, Cherry Valley was a town of about 350 residents on Arkansas Highway 1 about 15 minutes north of Wynne. I doubt it has grown much since that time. Most of the stores were lined up on Main Street, with just a few others as you entered the town limits. The stores consisted of the typical retail variety of the day; a feed or tack store, which served the farmers and ranchers with much needed stock and livestock and basic hardware supplies, a grocery store, a general mercantile store, and a gas station. There were a few others like clothes stores, but we never ventured into those. Our main interest was food, and of course, candy! For toys, we'd have to travel to Wynne and visit the Ben Franklin 5 and dime.

My favorite store was Holcomb's grocery. It was located about mid-way down Main Street. Mr. Holcomb was an extremely nice man and always had a smile for all his customers. He greeted everyone as if he'd known them his entire life. And he had a pretty good selection of candy, which made the experience even better.

The only other store I remember visiting in town was Misner's General Store. There wasn't much in there of interest to me, but it was great just getting to walk through and look at the variety of stuff he offered. I don't ever remember going to any other store in that town, with the possible exception of the gas station.

Both grandparents used essentially the same terms when referring to Cherry Valley and Wynne. For immediate or routine supplies, they'd just say, "I'm going to the store." That meant they were headed to Cherry Valley. "The Store" could mean any number of places, but most often it was Holcomb's grocery. If they said, "I'm going to town," that was code for Wynne. For us, that meant a stop at the Ben Franklin's 5 and dime, where we could spend our hard-earned dollars for junk toys that we normally broke before the day was out. I don't recall why they went, but I suspect it was mainly just a treat for us kids.

Cherry Valley was a typical town or village in the rural south. It was quaint, had all the necessities of life, and unlike today the prices rivaled what you found in larger cities. Many of them have died away or are dying because either they are no longer competitive or people have left. How sad.

Jay Bowen
Past Commander





Salty Dog

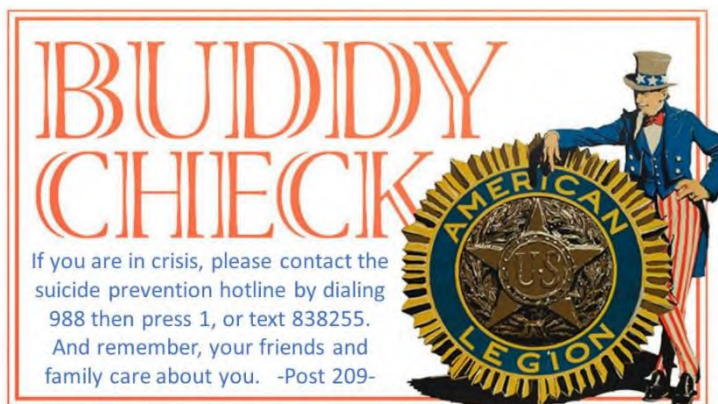
UNREP/VERTREP:

When a ship is underway there is always a need for more supplies including fuel. Since you are out in the middle of the water you can't really pull up to the shore and refuel or restock. All this is done while underway and is a pretty major undertaking. The two ways the Navy uses to resupply or refuel are Underway Replenishment (UNREP) or Vertical Replenishment (VERTREP).

The supply ship pulls up alongside the ship it is going to resupply and then shot lines are sent over to each ship that are used to pull lines to refuel the ship and to send over supplies. The other way is supplies are sent over by helicopter and dropped on the flight deck; which on my ship we normally had both operations going on at the same time. Both procedures include lots of moving pieces and if you are not paying attention it can be very dangerous if not deadly.



Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 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/>

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	2
3	4 Labor Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	5	6 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	7 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm Ex. Cmte Meeting 6:00pm  	8 Price TBD SAL Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	9 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
10	11 Patriot Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	12 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	13 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	14 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  	15 \$17/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	16 Post 209 Active Duty Baby Shower 10:am - 2:00pm 
17	18 Air Force B'day! Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	19 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	20 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	21 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  	22 Price TBD ALA Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	23 Start of Fall Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
24	25 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	26 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	27 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	28 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  	29 Price TBD Victory Service Dog Fundraiser Dinner 6:00pm	30

October 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	3	4 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	5 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm Ex. Cmte Meeting 6:00pm   	6 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	7
8	9 Columbus Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	10 Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm 	11 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	12 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm   	13 \$15/Person ALR Oktoberfest 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	14 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
15	16 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	17 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	18 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	19 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm   	20 Free*/Guests TBD Early Bird Dinner! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	21 Post 209 "Buddy Time" 9:00am - 11:00am 
22	23 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	24 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	25 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	26 Honor Gd. 6:00pm Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm   	27 Aux. Sponsored Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	28 Trunk or Treat 3:00pm - 5:00pm Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm   
29	30 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	31 Halloween	Notes: *The Early Bird Dinner is free to Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members who renew on/before 15 and RSVP on/before noon Thursday, 19 October.			