

The Centennial

VOLUME I EDITION 1

JANUARY 2020



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917
719-599-8624

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2019 - 2020 OFFICERS!!

2019-2020 American Legion Post 209 Officers

Commander: Lino Calica	Finance Officer: Mike Barger	Executive Committeeman: Marvin Weaver Jr.
Sr. Vice Commander: Joseph Schmidt	Chaplain: Stan Hamamoto	Judge Advocate: Marvin Weaver Sr.
Jr. Vice Commander: Desiree Guerra	Historian: Mike Wescott	Service Officer: Art Carter
Adjutant: Jerry Hopper	Sgt At Arms: Sarah Tobin	Club Manager: Art Kimbrel

2019-2020 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

President: Cathy Barger	Secretary: Pat Weaver	Chaplain: Madelyne "Hooty" Newborn
Vice President: Donna Testorff	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes	Historian: Royce Hopper
	Sgt At Arms: Kris Floyd	

2019-2020 Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

Commander: Eric Testorff	Adjutant: Ken Taylor	Sgt At Arms: Bob Ingram
Sr. Vice Commander: Michael Wescott	Chaplain: Steve Cox	Immediate Past Commander: Stan Krasinski
Jr. Vice Commander: Richard Pecoraro	Historian: Evan Schwartzbart	

2019-2020 American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

President: Steve Hayes	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes	Communications: Wade Newborn
Vice President: Tim McDowell	Road Captain: John Hanchek	Historian: Andrew Pearson
Secretary: Cathy Barger	Sgt At Arms: Mark Griffin	Logistics: Mike Sylvester
	Pastor: John Coppedge	

2019-2020 Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Jon Davis K0YOV	Vice President: George Johnson KE0ALQ
Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU	Treasurer: Henry Russell KCONAJ
Director: Jim Harris WOEM	



FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

Happy New Year! My family and I would like to wish you and your family a joyous and prosperous 2020 year. We hope you all had wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year. As we start off this New Year, I would like to WELCOME the new members, existing members and their families to the Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 Legion family. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any officers and we will glad to assist you.

In 2019, as a Post we accomplished 2 major projects and 3 open projects, the parking lot, the Wall of Honor monument in the front of the building and fencing the property. Our Post helped over 31 Veterans and their families who needed assistance in food, clothing, gas, and to pay their rent or mortgage for the month. I want to thank Service Officer AJ Carter for his hard work and dedication in assisting our Veterans. We have also had many obstacles and challenges that financially woke up the leadership team and its Post members. We, as the leadership team put our heads together and brainstormed on different ways to raise the funds to keep Post 209 afloat. I would like to thank all the leaders, committee's and volunteers in the following programs; Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders and Legion Amateur Radio Club for participating and dedicating your time and hard work at Post dinners, Post rides, Auxiliary holiday events, craft fairs, Post rentals and many more projects.

Just a reminder, our Post is continuing our 2020 Membership Drive. The Department membership goal for Post 209 is 1080. Currently, our membership is at 845 (unofficial count) members, which is 78%. Thank you everyone for your hard work in the 2020 membership drive. Let us continue to retain, recruit and renew our members. We are approximately 235 members shy of the 100 % goal. Let's continue to keep Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 number one Post in the state.

Don't forget, January 17th-19th is Department Mid-year Conference at Hotel Elegante, 2886 S Circle Dr, Colorado Springs, Co 80906. Come out and support the mid-year.

We will be having Elections for Post officers will in April. I appointed Marvin Weaver Jr. to be the election committee chairman. If you are interested in getting involved for one or multiple positions, please contact Marvin Weaver Jr. at weaverjrm@comcast.com or talk to him personally.

Leadership Qualities that make a good Leader:

Leadership by Sarmad Hasan <https://blog.taskque.com/characteristics-good-leaders>

Everybody defines leadership differently, John C Maxwell defines leadership, "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." Irrespective of how you define a leader, he or she can prove to be a difference maker between success and failure. A good leader has a futuristic vision and knows how to turn his ideas into real-world success stories.

The 34th President of United States, Dwight. D. Eisenhower once said, "The supreme quality of leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is a football field, in the Army, or in an office." Honesty and integrity are two important ingredients which makes a good leader. How can you expect your followers to be honest when you lack these qualities yourself? Leaders succeed when they stick to their values and core beliefs and without ethics, this will not be possible.

“Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real.” -Thomas Merton. How would you feel when you are promoted to leadership status? You feel proud. A good leader is always selfless and always thinks about his or her followers. That is why the leadership styles most great leaders adopt, put lots of emphasis on problem-solving and team dynamics instead of focusing on self-promotion.

Keep February 28, 2020 date open. We will be having a fundraiser for our Post 209. By popular request from many our members, we will have a Hawaiian Night Dinner. More information to follow.

If there are any suggestions to improve our Post please feel free to contact me by phone or email, Legionnaire.calica@yahoo.com or 719 963-0956, it will be greatly appreciated.

Lino Calica
Post Commander

S.A.L.T. – Serving and Learning Together





MY FIRST DEPLOYMENT

My first deployment to the Middle East was interesting to say the least. I was 23 years old and aside from spending a year in South Korea, I had never spent this much time out of the country. I first arrived to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Fenty at Jalalabad Airfield with the 4th Infantry Division in early February of 2012. It was different to say the least. The

sights, sounds, and even smells all new to me in this far away land. When you're in a war zone for the first time it can be overwhelming. The idea of not knowing what could happen can cause some anxiety in the strongest of soldiers.

As the days and weeks went by, taking indirect mortar fire became a regular occurrence for us. Most would overshoot the FOB and explode outside the perimeter, or some would hit in areas not as heavily populated. Lucky for us the enemy was a bad shot, and seldom did a mortar or rocket cause injury. This was life in Afghanistan. We all pretended not to let it bother us, but we all knew that one well-placed round could be the end to any of us.

A few months later I was with an Afghan National who I only knew by his surname, Mohammedi. I was escorting him around the FOB with pallets of water to refill the water points that had set up in the area. We began taking indirect fire from mortars and rockets, quickly the two of us ran to a bunker that was constructed out of concrete T-barriers covered in sandbags. As we sat there I, as usual began smoking waiting for this attack to end when Mohammedi asked for one of my cigarettes. I indulged in his request, and soon we began to talk.

I had worked with this this man on and off for a few months and all I knew was his name, so I asked about his family, and he in return asked about mine. Although his English was not that great, nor my Pashto, we managed to carry on in conversation. I learned this man had 3 daughters who no longer lived in Afghanistan, he had sent them away because of the violence, and worried for their safety, he sent them to live with a family member in Europe. I was puzzled why he had not left to be with them, and he said that he and his wife do not have the money to move.

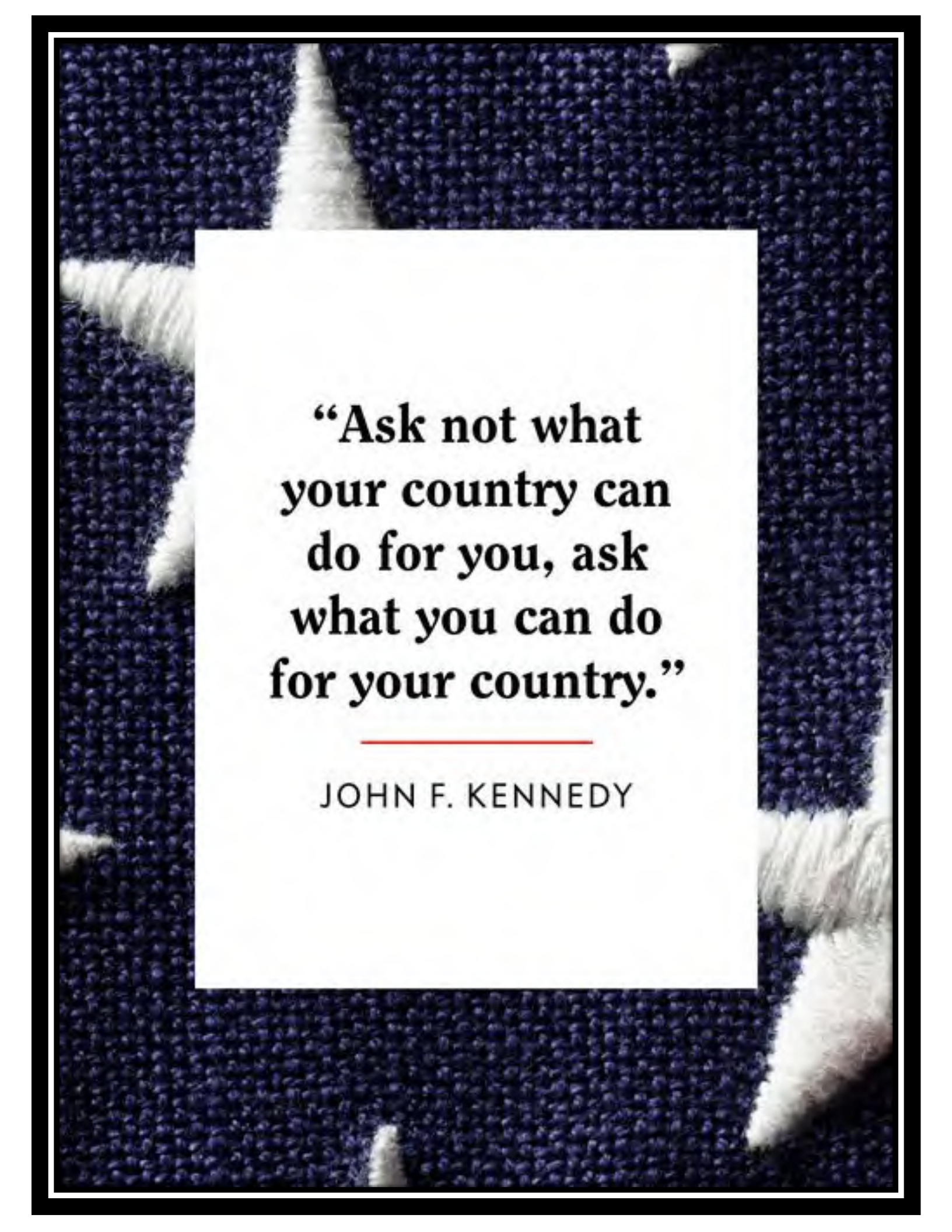
As we continued to talk, I became more inquisitive about his life and wanted to know why he worked for the Americans? He was hesitant to answer at first, but then replied, "I live in fear of death from those out there that believe we should be abiding by their rules, their laws. I risk being killed each day I come here. I have very little but what I do have is mine." After smoking another cigarette, the all clear came over the loudspeaker. We were free to leave, and as I walked out of the bunker Mohammedi's watch goes off and he stops to begin praying.

I knew that his faith requires him to pray five times a day, but I had never witnessed someone performing their prayers so close to me. I did not understand the words, but I felt the passion in his voice. I like to think he was giving thanks for surviving another attack, or that he was asking for God to watch over his daughters. Whatever it may have been it was with passion in prayer, seldom have I seen it before or since. I no longer saw a potential enemy; I saw a man who was only trying to provide a piece of a dream for a family he may never see again.

I left Afghanistan that December of 2012 and came back home to a place where freedom is too often taken for granted. Most Americans have not lived in fear of death to support their family, for many, going to work involves Starbucks and McMuffin's, not mortars and small arms fire. I never wish for anyone to experience a life like that, but maybe, just maybe we should be more empathetic of those who do. I haven't talked to Mohammedi since I left Afghanistan, but I do think about him sometimes. I like to think he and his wife were reunited with their daughters and they got to experience real freedom and the life he always dreamed about.

Joseph A. Schmidt
Post Sr. Vice Commander





**“Ask not what
your country can
do for you, ask
what you can do
for your country.”**

JOHN F. KENNEDY



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST FINANCE OFFICER

Here we go again. Another new year is upon us. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. Now it's time for us all to get back to work assisting our Commander on getting this Post to 100%+ on membership. As for our finances, we finished November up in the black \$782 dollars. Now December could be a different story, since we weren't open for dinners or anything, so we'll see where we stand. We do have a major expense coming up in the new year, and that will be the resurfacing of our parking lot. This must be done, for us to keep in good standing with our insurance company. If anyone knows of a company that could provide us a reasonable quote and is veteran friendly, please let me or the Commander know, so we can contact them. This will cost us a pretty penny to do. As for our electric usage in November, we were at \$348 dollars, so it appears we may have stabilized on our usage costs but will keep an eye on this and report back to you all.

One thing we need to look at as a 501-c organization, is we need to establish and maintain a funding source. Without a source of funding, a non-profit ceases to exist. Therefore, establishing and maintaining sources of funding are extremely important to the survival of a non-profit and deserve a dedicated staff member or team of staff members. Maintaining these sources are all an essential part of the growth and sustainability of a non-profit. Keep an up-to-date database, cultivate and maintain corporate sponsors and volunteers by sending personal updates or newsletters or inviting them to a "thank you" luncheon or dinner. This is something that we need to do as a Post, for us to continue to serve our veterans. Without this, we will not be able to keep doing what we do at the rate we are doing this.

Mike Barger
Post Finance Officer





FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

I hope everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas. There are many who did not. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers as the New Year begins.

As 2020 starts to unwind I hope we all can renew our focus towards the mission of The American Legion, our four pillars. We must work together as a Post for our community and our organization and get on with what we are about. Let's make a concerted effort to improve our ability to assist our brothers and sisters and their families, who need our help.

At the time I am writing this piece, we still have many who have not paid their membership dues for 2020. I hope each and every one who has not renewed, does so right away. Let's make it our New Years' Resolution to renew, stay current, and get involved. I would love to find it necessary to ask for assistance keeping up.


We have available to us, within our community, the resources to become one of the largest American Legion Posts within the country. We are already the largest in the state. Wouldn't it be cool to tell our kids, grand, and great grandkids that we belong to the largest American Legion Post in the country? To make this happen, we (by we, I mean the Executive Committee) need your inputs. I know there are those of you who have comments or ideas. Let us hear them, pro or con. We are here to serve you, the members, and our community, state, and nation.

January 17, 18, and 19, 2020 is the Mid-Year Conference at Hotel Elegante. Every member is welcome and encouraged to come see what is or will be happening across the Department of Colorado. Be sure to review the calendar of upcoming events. January 11 is the first General Membership Meeting of the New Year. Let's start the year off right. BE THERE!

It's What We Do!!

Jerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



The background of the image is a close-up, slightly angled view of the American flag. The red and white stripes are visible on the left and bottom, while the blue field with white stars is on the right and top. The flag is framed by a thick black border.

**“The magic of
America is that
we're a free and
open society with a
mixed population.
Part of our security
is our freedom.”**

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT



FROM COLORADO BOYS STATE

American Legion Boys State is a six-day hands-on educational seminar that mirrors the structure and operations of city, county and state government. The program is a leadership, character building and growth experience, **for high school students who have completed their junior year and have at least one semester remaining in high school.** It is among the most respected educational programs in government instruction for high school students in the nation. Boys participating in American Legion Colorado Boys State can receive **three** college credits from UCCS and be eligible for several scholarships. Go to our Boys State website at <http://colegionboysstate.org/> for full details. Each year, approximately 20,000 young men nation-wide attend Boys State, and it is recognized as a leadership program by the service academies, colleges and universities. Many employers also consider Boys State attendance a plus on job applications. **There are no GPA, class standing or student activity requirements for attending American Legion Colorado Boys State.**

Boys State participants are taught the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities they will assume as adult citizens of the United States. The training is objective and practical with boys serving in elected or appointed city, county and state government offices. Boys are assigned to a fictitious political party, called Nationalist or Federalist. They create party platforms, conduct party conventions, campaign for office, and nominate and elect officials within the city, county and state levels to form their 51st state. They introduce and argue bills in their own legislature and learn through the process that government is what they make it. We even have a Judiciary group complete with lawyers arguing cases to the Boys State Supreme Court.

The 2020 American Legion Colorado Boys State will be held **May 30 through June 4** on the campus of the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs (UCCS). Participants are housed in the campus dormitories and all activities are conducted on campus. The Boy State staff also resides in the dormitories for supervision. **Tuition is paid for by The American Legion** through donations from their sponsoring Post and a variety of other sources; **there is no cost to families.** Interested students should contact their school counselors. Parents are welcome and encouraged to visit, just call ahead.

Do you know a young man who will be completing his Junior year of High School in 2020 and will have at least one more semester of High School remaining after their Junior year? If so, we encourage you to have him go to our website and register for this "Week That Will Shape a Lifetime!"

Art "AG" Carter
Boys State Coordinator



Proud possessors of...



a priceless heritage...

FROM THE DESK OF THE SAL COMMANDER

It is now early January, and if you are a member of the Sons of the American Legion who has not renewed, or if you know of a member of the Sons who has not renewed membership for 2020, please take action to help Squadron 209 accomplish our mission. A member can renew in a number of ways, including bringing your dues to Post 209, or mailing a check to:

SAL Squadron 209 at 3613 Jeannine Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917, or by renewing online at **legion209.org**. Dues are \$25 per year, \$10 for Juniors under 18.

Your continued membership in the S.A.L. not only means you are a member of the American Legion Family, but it adds strength in numbers to our cause, and helps with the many services Squadron 209 provides to our veterans, our youth and our community. Some of these include:

- Bringing cheer, fellowship and recognition to veterans in local nursing homes.
- Bringing huggable plush toys to children undergoing procedures in local hospitals.
- Raising funds for the Child Welfare Foundation, which provides grants to organizations serving needy children nationwide.
- Manning the Junior Shooting program for Post 209, which teaches rifle marksmanship and firearm safety to local children, ages 10-18.
- Placing wreaths in December, and American flags for Memorial Day in May, on veteran graves at local cemeteries to ensure that our departed veterans are never forgotten.

By being a member of Squadron 209, your renewal helps us accomplish all these things and more. If you haven't renewed for 2020, please do so today!

Eric Testorff

SAL Squadron Commander



2020

— HAPPY NEW YEAR —



“ALL GREAT CHANGE IN
AMERICA BEGINS AT THE
DINNER TABLE.”

— RONALD REAGAN



In the Spirit of Service and Not Self...

FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I can't believe that it's 2020!

I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year with family and friends. 2019 was a busy year, and 2020 will be another busy year. It has been a remarkable year for our Post family, and we have demonstrated to the community we are here to help and stand strong as a Veteran's organization. I want to give a thank you to all those that volunteered their hours in 2019.

The Christmas party was a huge success, as usual. The kids loved seeing Santa and we had some delicious food that was enjoyed by all. Everyone who attended had a good time. Thanks to our special guests (Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, with a few extra guests) brought smiles to all the children (even the big kids).

We're so close to making our goal on membership for the year but still have more to do to reach it. If you haven't already renewed for 2020, please send in your check for \$35. If you know someone that qualifies, please invite them to visit any of the functions we have and let them see what a great organization we are.

Don't forget; we'll be having our regular monthly meeting on January 11th. Please join us for a great breakfast and stay for the meeting at 10 a.m.

Don't forget Department Mid-Year Conference will be held on January 17th thru January 19th in Colorado Springs, CO at the Hotel Elegante, Colorado Springs, CO. On Friday Night, January 17, 2020, the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Colorado will be hosting a 100th Birthday Party. The theme is Wonka. The party will be from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. More details coming soon.

We would like to wish the following ladies a HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Essie Armstrong, Marcia Bangs, Ashlyn Bock, Brianna Bock, Linda Cancellieri, Frances Cancellieri, Joyce Moyer, Chelsea Hayes, Valerie Martinez, Marilyn Stites, Lynn Thomas, Jailyn Weaver, Teresa Shepherd, Keri Worthington, and Cheryl Wright. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Cathy Barger
Unit President



Happy New Year!!



BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

Oh, the games people play now! No, I'm not going to launch into an old Joe South song, although it was a good one. I've been thinking about the toys and games we played growing up.

As you know, we didn't have video games back in the 60's. We actually played outside most of the time. We got dirty, we had scrapes and bruises, and occasionally we had kids break an arm or a leg or get cut to the point where stitches were required. But that was just a part of growing up. Nobody got real worried or excited about. We'd walk it off if it was a sprain, or we'd go to the doctor and get a cast and then back out the door the next day.



Unlike the more popular games of football and baseball that was always fun, but required several kids, some games didn't require much physical dexterity or people, but it did involve technique. A couple of my favorites was "shooting marbles" and "lagging for the line." One involved winning and losing your marbles (some would argue I lost all mine years ago), and the other could win some pocket change for Cokes and Cup Cakes.

I guess shooting marbles has been around for quite a while. I believe they still have tournaments. We didn't ever play in an organized game of tournament, we'd just get a few kids together who had several marbles to chance on losing, and we'd play.

All of us had at least one "aggie" or large marble that was used as the shooter marble. To shoot, we'd "crook" our index finger and lay the aggie inside the crook. We put our thumb from the same hand behind the aggie, line up the shot and "flick" the marble with our thumb toward the marbles. The other marbles from each team was scattered around on the dirt and we'd take turns shooting at an opponent's marble. If we hit it, we owned it. We'd continue playing until we took all the opponent's marbles, or until we got tired of playing. It was fun and at one time, I had a pretty good collection.

Now, "lagging" was a little different game. First, we'd agree on what coin we would use to play. This game was mostly played indoor because you had to pitch a penny, nickel, dime, or sometimes even a quarter toward a pre-determined wall (some people would pick a line in the floor as the target, but most of the time we'd choose a wall). Whoever had their coin stop closest to the line won coins from all competitors during that toss. The game would continue until your opponents were broke.

A couple other unique but popular games we played were "Stretch" and "Mumbley Peg." Both these games required a pocketknife (see my earlier comment about cuts). In Stretch, you'd stand facing your opponent with feet together at the start and throw the knife beside the opponent. If the knife stuck in the ground, the opponent had to take one leg and stretch to the knife's position. Then it was his turn. He (or she) would do the same to you. The game continued back and forth until you could no longer make the stretch to the knife's position.

Now Mumbley Peg was quite different. It was not uncommon to see kids walking around with pokes and scratches as a result of playing this game with a sharp-pointed pocketknife. In Mumbley Peg, you'd take turns trying to stick the knife in the ground from different positions on your body. There were many variations of this game, but the one we played would start with each finger on one hand, one at a time. The point of the knife would, for example rest on the thumb, then you'd let it fall or maybe push it off your thumb and attempt to get it to stick in the ground. If you were successful with the thumb, you'd move on to all other fingers.

After the fingers, you'd flip it from the palm of your hand, then the back of your hand, then your wrist, elbow, shoulder, then off the forehead, nose and chin. After that, you'd work your way down the other arm. You were allowed two tries to get the knife to stick. If you missed it the first time you could end your turn and when it came back again, you'd start from that same point. If however, you decided to give it another try and didn't stick the knife in the ground, you'd have to start all over with the thumb on your next turn.

Here's the "peg" part. The loser of the Mumbley Peg game had to "root the peg," which was typically a matchstick, out of the ground using only your nose and teeth.

You could easily tell who the kids were that weren't very good at the game. They walked around with a dirty face and/or scratches and cuts on their face arms, and fingers. After I finally got a decent pocketknife that was well balanced, my face and body cleared up pretty well.

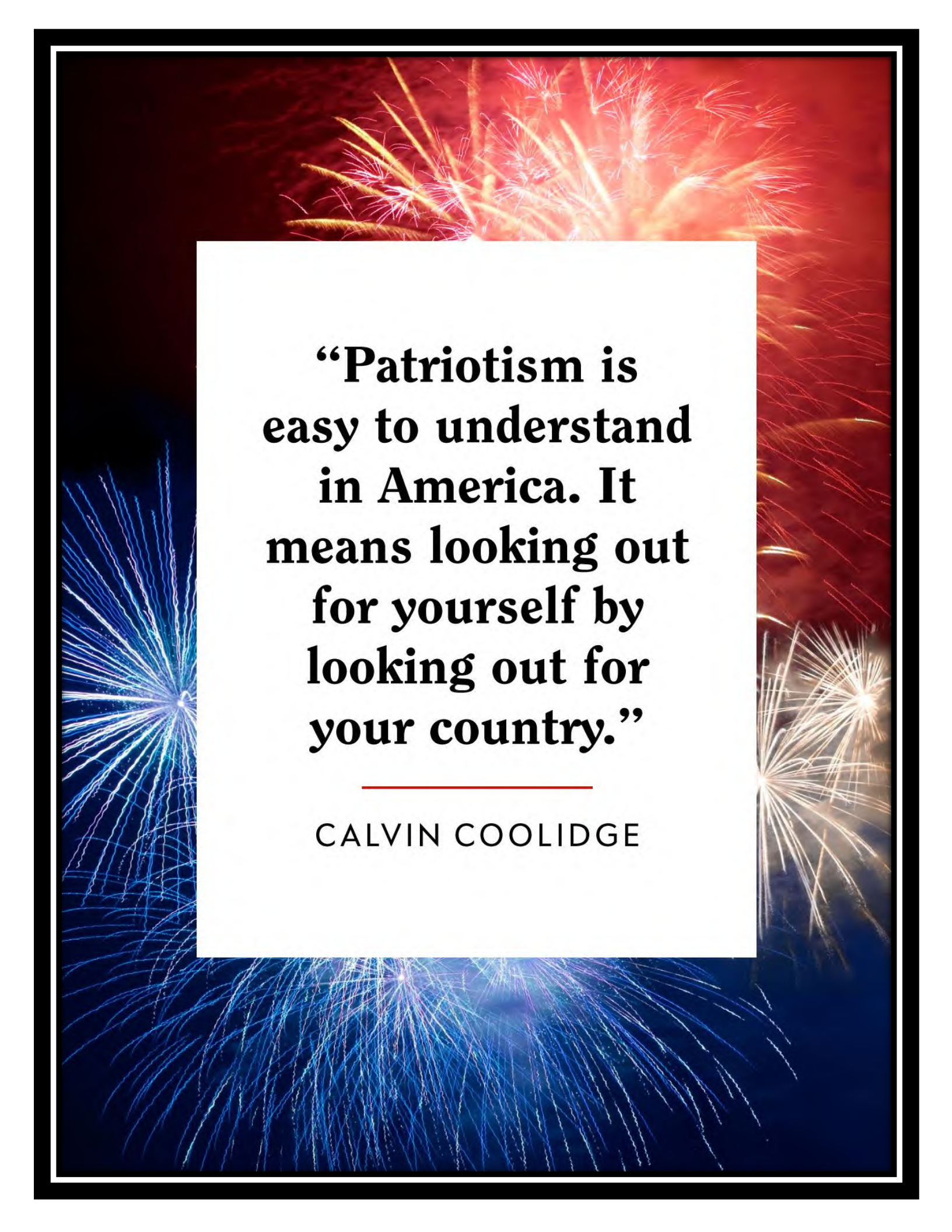
Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



BE ALWAYS AT WAR WITH YOUR
VICES, AT PEACE WITH YOUR
NEIGHBORS, AND LET EACH YEAR
FIND YOU A BETTER MAN.

—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Happy
New
Year!!



**“Patriotism is
easy to understand
in America. It
means looking out
for yourself by
looking out for
your country.”**

CALVIN COOLIDGE

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day	2	3 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm	4
5	6 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	7	8	9 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	10 \$10.00 Meal Aux. Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	11 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am
12	13 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	14	15	16	17 \$15.00 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm CANCELLED!	18
			Department Mid-Year Conference; Elegante Hotel			
19 Department Mid-Year	20 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm	21	22	23	24 \$10.50 Meal Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	25
26	27 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	28 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm	29	30	31	Notes:

“Tomorrow, is the first blank
 page of a 365 page book.
 Write a good one.”

Brad Paisley

Swido