



Centennial Post 209

P.O. Box 15461
Colorado Springs, CO 80935

January 1987

Happy New Year Legionnaires:

We are starting the New Year on a very high note. For the first time since I became a member of this Post, we have surpassed our membership goal before Christmas. Congratulations, that is a monumental milestone to be justifiably proud of.

As we embark upon this new year with full knowledge of our recent success, do not become complacent. We need an all-time high membership now more than ever. Over the past year, we have seen our Space Program go up in smoke, our International image shrink diplomatically, our political powers maligned and in general, a loss of credibility around the world. We are for the first time a debtor nation and suffering an economic decline. In spite of all of these shortcomings, we still have the greatest nation on earth.

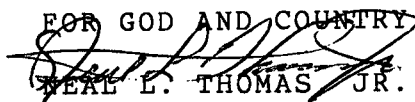
We must maintain our strength to convince our incoming Congress of today's Veterans interests and needs. Today, aging Veterans in need of medical care are growing in numbers, not only must medical care be fully funded but construction of replacement facilities must proceed. The American Legion Agenda must be to protect Veterans Programs and assure adequate National security. This can only be assured if we address our lawmakers in Washington from a point of strength in numbers.

There will be many new faces in both the House and Senate when the 100th Congress convenes in January. Now is the time to convince them that we expect to see campaign promises kept. Last year we did fairly well retaining Veterans benefits, but keep in mind it was an election year, Nuff said.

At the end of last year we were getting a new group of legionnaires attending the monthly meetings. I hope this trend continues throughout the coming year. Our next post meeting is scheduled 15 January 1987, 7 PM at the Rustic Hills Community Room.

On 11 December, 1986, George Wood, Post Adjutant underwent open heart/bypass surgery. He is still in the hospital in Denver. On Saturday, 27 December, 1986, June and I went to see Woodie on his birthday. He is recovering well following additional surgery to clear up an infection. Barring any further complications, he should be home in about two weeks. If you happen to be in Denver, he can have visitors. He is at University Center Hospital, Room 5104. Guess what he was doing when I went up to see him
---- writing the Newsletter.

We are getting good crowds at our weekly Bingo on Tuesday nights. We are in dire need of Bingo workers to accomodate these Bingo players. Recently Bingo Chairman, Dave Thomas, sent out a questionnaire requesting responses from each member. As of this date, only a few have been returned. I have taken the liberty of enclosing a copy of this questionnaire in the Bulletin. Please complete the questionnaire and bring it with you to the next meeting, 15 January, 1987, THURSDAY EVENING, 7:00 P.M., SHARP in the Rustic Hills Mall Community Room. See you at the meeting.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

NEAL L. THOMAS JR.
Commander

LIFE PLAN INCREASES BENEFITS DURING 1987

Indianapolis (ALNS) - A 15 percent "across-the-board" increase in death benefits paid in 1987 has been approved for the American Legion Life Insurance Plan, Jerome P. Dobel, Jr., Chairman of the Legions Life Insurance and Trust Committee, has announced.

Chairman Dobel pointed out the approval of the added benefits by the Legion's National Executive Committee marks the 18th time since the inception of the Life Insurance Plan in 1958 that an increase in the annual amount of protection offered by the Program has been granted. The increase in benefits comes at no increase in premium.

Also, effective January 1, 1987, the present maximum coverage of 12 units will be increased to fourteen (14) units. A unit of life insurance is the amount of coverage available according to the applicant's age.

The basic insurance rates remain unchanged from those introduced at the Plan's inception in 1958.

NOTE: Any Legionnaire desiring additional information or applications for life insurance, contact Post Adjutant George Wood at 574-0339, anytime.

VETS PROGRAMS SCORE GAINS AGAINST GROWING DEMANDS FOR FEDERAL SPENDING CUTS

Washington (ALNS) - With the recently adjourned 99th Congress tackling issues ranging from fiscal problems to immigration reform, victories for Veterans were not insignificant, especially considering the Budgetary constraints mandated by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings deficit reduction package. Efforts by the American Legion were instrumental in exempting programs for Veterans from automatic cuts called for by the Budget Savings Act.

Veterans and dependents who receive pensions and disability compensation payments from the Veterans Administration received a 1.5 percent increase beginning December 1. The omnibus Veterans Health Care Bill also includes provisions to expand medical care to former prisoners of war and exempts more programs from mandatory Gramm-Rudman Budget cuts. Chronically ill Veterans may now be provided with respite care by the VA, and Veterans who were exposed to ionizing radiation will be entered into a National Registry.

VET CENTERS RETAINED

The VA Readjustment Counseling Program for Vietnam Veterans (Vet Centers) has been extended for one year in its present form. This provision prohibits the VA from integrating most Vet Centers into traditional VA medical facilities next year.

The VA will also take a close look at the increasing number of defaults on VA-guaranteed home loans and try to come up with ways to help prevent Veterans from buying homes they cannot afford.

In April, President Reagan signed legislation which radically changes the way the VA delivers care to Veterans in its medical facilities. Non-service connected disabled Veterans will have to prove that they are poor enough to receive VA health care. The legislation also allows the VA to be reimbursed from a Veterans Health Insurance Company. The American Legion stood alone among the Veteran's groups in opposing these changes and have vowed to monitor the implementation of these new guide lines to make sure Veterans receive the care they deserve.

On the positive side, Legislation calling for the judicial review of V.A. claim decisions failed during the last Congress. The Legion has long maintained that the current system of claims adjudication is fair and non adversarial for Veterans seeking assistance. However, the Legion recognizes that this matter will come up again in the next session of Congress.

VA HOME LOAN PROGRAM

Twice during 1986, the VA Home Loan Program faced fiscal crisis which threatened to shut down the whole program. In March and again in May, President Reagan approved legislation which expanded the VA's lending authority to allow the Program to continue.

JOB BOOST CONTINUED

Also in economics news, the Targeted Job Tax Credit which provides tax incentives to employers for hiring Veterans was reauthorized, a measure to extend the placement of Vietnam-Era and handicapped Veteran's in the Federal work place was approved, and Legislation was passed which prohibits hiring discrimination against National Guard members and members of the Reserve.

NEW CONGRESS IN JANUARY

A new and vastly altered Congress will convene in January with Democrats holding majorities in each house of the National Legislature. The American Legion's National Legislative Commission will keep alert to future possible changes in Veteran's programs as the 100th Congress convenes in January.

The area of health care for aging Veterans, SDI, general defense and Veteran's economics programs will be of primary interest as Committee Chairman change in the Democratic controlled Senate.

'86 CONVENTION URGES POW/MIA SOLUTION

During the 1986 National Convention in Cincinnati, delegates expressed the American Legion's deep and continuing concern on the POW/MIA issue. These Legionnaires were concerned that 33 years after the Korean Truce more than 8,000 Americans are still missing and 13 years after the Paris Peace Treaty more than 2,400 Americans are still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

Through their unanimous approval of four resolutions, the Delegates expressed the Legion's total commitment to a speedy and complete solution to the POW/MIA problem.

NOTE: At each general membership meeting, there are TWO (2) places reserved for POW/MIA/s. Please help us preserve the Banners and display them until the fate of all POW/MIA's are known.

AUXILIARY CORNER

Wishing each of you, your spouse and family a very healthy and prosperous 1987. I am thankful to God that through the many illnesses in 1986, we are all yet in the land of the living. I am hopeful we will have another great year in the American Legion Auxiliary. I thank each one of you for making that possible.

Our regularly scheduled meeting is January 15th, Thursday, at 7:00 P.M., at the Rustic Hills Mall. I am requesting reports from the officers on 1986 business. If you have not turned in your poems and prayers to Chaplain Flossie Reese, bring them to the meeting or mail to P.O. Box 15461, Colorado Springs, CO 80935. Let's continue to fulfill our commitments to the American Legion and the Auxiliary and set goals for the new year. Poppies must be ordered, cookies must be baked for the Veterans hospitals and nursing homes. We have much to do and a good reason for doing it. We received the Thunderbird award for first place membership by November 11, 1986. Congratulations, Ladies!!

I am requesting your prayers for Gym Reese, Flossie's husband who is in and out of the hospital with heart attacks. Also, George Wood, Connie's husband, who is still in the hospital with a series of operations. Let us bind our hearts together in love and all pull for the same goals.

See you at the meeting in January, bring a new member with you!!

A Unit, Under God, Fulfilling a Commitment!

June Thomas
President



Centennial Post 209

P. O. Box 15461
Colorado Springs, CO 80935

Dear Fellow Legionnaire:

As you can well imagine, we of Centennial Post 209, continue to need your support in the operation of Post BINGO game. Bingo is held on Tuesday nights at 7PM at the Retired Enlisted Association at 834 Emory Circle.

We all know that working BINGO is no fun; however, no one has suggested a better way to create a fund with which we can build our Post home. Our BINGO game has indeed provided us a start on that fund. We are not asking you to donate ever Tuesday night of the month; but, if you could donate one, two, or even more, we could set up a schedule that will allow us to provide time off for those who have been working every week.

If your are able to donate your time, please indicate by marking the appropriate boxes, below, those areas and times you can help us.

(your name)

I can work: (Please mark as many as you possibly can)

One night a month

First Tuesday

Second Tuesday

Third Tuesday

Fourth Tuesday

Fifth Tuesday

I Cannot work Bingo

I prefer to work:

*Hard Cards
(two persons needed)*

*Selling Specials
(three - four
persons needed)*

*Cashier (two
persons needed)*

*Jar Raffles (three
persons needed)*

*Caller (two
persons needed)*

After completing the questionnaire, return it to me at the address below. (or telephone me, or bring it to bingo - whichever is more convient).

Respectfully yours,

DAVID H. THOMAS
Games Manager
312 Rose Drive
Security, Colorado 80911
TEL 392-1036

FROM THE DISTRICT COMMANDER:

During the District Area
executive meeting the following offices
have been nominated

Commander	Len Lyhna	Post 209
SERVICE CDR	Mare Bayne	Post 5
ADVICE CDR	Harry ^{ANDREWS} Andrews	Post 5
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN	Jim CHANDLER	Post 38
SGT AT ARMS	Tom Bender	Post 209
FINANCE OFFICER	ARTHUR AKELL ARTHUR AKELL	Post 13

THE FOLLOWING OFFICES STILL ARE OPEN.

CAPTAIN	Mary Hoyer	Post 209
HISTORIAN		

NOTE: Nominations will be accepted
from the floor prior to election of
officers on 17 May 1987 at Post 5.

Len Lyhna