

The Centennial



VOLUME 50 EDITION 1

January 2017

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Mike Barger

Well, another year is upon us, and I hope everyone had a safe and joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year with your family and friends. A big thank you goes out to all those that volunteered their hours in December working the Christmas party and holiday parties that were scheduled as Post rentals.

A little January history moment. The Paris Peace Accords, officially the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam, was a peace treaty signed January 27, 1973 to establish peace in Vietnam and end the War. The treaty included the governments of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam), and the US, as well as the Provisional Revolutionary Government that represented indigenous South Vietnamese revolutionaries. It ended direct US military combat, and temporarily stopped the fighting. Please welcome home our Vietnam Veterans; they didn't get the welcome home they deserved.

As we begin a new year, the Post is entering into a new adventure, offering our members a chance to sign up for discounted Dental/Vision care. As you recall in our November meeting, Bernard Harris spoke to us about this, and he did a very nice write up in our December newsletter. In November, he presented this plan to the Executive Board to get approval, and we approved this and agreed we would do this on a 1 year trial period, in hopes that we can get enough Post members signed up. It's our hope that if we get enough members to sign up, it would benefit us as a Post by keeping us solvent for many years to come. There's some months we are in the red, and this would keep us in the black every month. If we can do that, we don't need to continue to pull from our reserves to keep this Post running. If you have family or friends that are in need of Dental/Vision, let them know about this. They do not need to be a Veteran or a member of this Post to sign up for it. We've been blessed to have one of our Auxiliary ladies, Donna Rae Reitzel Smith step up and will be the Post contact person while we move forward with this project. Her job will be to answer any questions you have and assist in any way she can when it comes to getting signed up with the plan. If you decide you want to sign up, remember, you are responsible for the monthly bill for \$24.95 to keep your membership active. Most folks that have insurance through their employer are paying almost double that. Also, you can add whoever lives in your household, and your cost will still only be \$24.95 a month. We have a directory of all the dentists in our community that takes Ameriplan, so feel free to come by and pick one up. It's our goal to have at least 12 to 20 members signed up by end of January and I feel we can reach that with no problems. We will have a speaker at the January general membership meeting that will give her story of what this plan has done for her, and how much money she's saved since signing up with it.

We start the New Year with a great shot of reaching our goal of membership of 1026 members. Keep up the good work everyone, and as the National Commander Charles Schmidt stated when he was here in September, if everyone here signs up one new member, we would double our membership quickly. Also January is Mid-Year Conference. It'll be held at the Crowne Plaza Denver Airport Convention Center at 15500 E 40th Ave (Chambers and I-70). Rooms are still available. Call (303) 371-9494 and let them know you're booking for the American Legion Conference and you'll get the room at \$89 a night.

The last few months, we've had great turnouts for events we've held at the Post. Early bird dinner brought in close to 70 people and the Christmas party brought in over 100. It's sure nice to see folks coming out and enjoying their time with other members of the Post. Mark your calendar, that on February 24th, the Post will be hosting a Dinner/Comedy show for \$20. Make sure to RSVP for it and let us know how many folks are coming. Invite your family and friends to this event, and come out and enjoy a night of camaraderie and comedy.

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com



From the Unit 209 President

Cathy Barger

Wow, what a year 2016 was. Where did it go? I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. 2016 will go down as one of our busiest and most successful years. As a Post, we helped numerous families, shared many times together which included holiday events, Post meetings, Post dinners and Post sponsored events, not to mention helping out with Post rentals.

The Christmas party was a huge success as usual. The kids loved seeing Santa. If you went away hungry, that's your fault, for we had our share of some delicious food that was enjoyed by all. In reviewing some of the photos of all who were in attendance, fun was had by all. Our special guests (Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, who was escorted in by Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer) brought smiles to some twenty children. And thanks to our elves, Jackie Bowen, Pat Weaver, Donna Rae Smith, Kellie Hayes, and Cathy Barger who helped serve over 80 adults. Thanks to all who helped make this one of our best Christmas events.

We're 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 2017, please send in your check for \$30. Don't forget, the Post will be hosting a Dinner/Comedy Show on the February 24th for \$20, so please plan on attending. Make sure to RSVP for this.

We'll be having our regular monthly meeting January 14th. Please join us for a great breakfast and stay for the meeting at 10 a.m.

We're still looking for recipes for our Auxiliary Cookbook. Please send in your recipes to Kellie Hayes at hayeskelliej@yahoo.com so we can get this project going.

We would like to wish the following ladies a HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Essie Armstrong, Julie Baldwin, Marcia Bangs, Carleigh Berry, Linda Cancellieri, Patty Gooding, Chelsea Hayes, Margery Johnson, Valerie Martinez, Marilyn Stites, Lynn Thomas, Jailyn Weaver, Cheryl Wright, Shirley Hamamoto, Sally Laveirge and Julie L. Baldwin. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Note: The ALR dinner for January will be Baked Pasta, Garlic Bread, Salad. Please come down and support the riders, and make sure to RSVP.



From the Adjutant

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

Happy New Year!! We did a lot of great things last year and I look forward to this coming year and seeing what our Legion Family can accomplish this year.

We have many events scheduled this coming year so make sure to keep an eye out in the newsletter and on our website for the upcoming events. The first event coming up is Department Mid-Year Conference. Midyear will be held in Denver, January 19th – 22nd at the Crown Plaza by DIA. Make plans to attend if you are able.

District 7 will be having a DMS session on February 3 – 5. DMS is Direct Mail Solicitation. When National sends out the letters to prospective members to join the American Legion they are put in a holding Post maintained by Department. We hold a DMS event to transfer these members to local Post within the District. What we need are people to come to the Post on one of these three days with their cell phone and charger and help make phone calls to these members so we can transfer them to local Posts and get them more involved. So please if you have the time come on down to the Post and help us out. We will be at Post 209 Feb 3rd from 12 – 4pm, Post 38 Feb 4th from 8am – 4pm, and Post 209 Feb 5th from 12 – 4pm.

Department is running a contest to help in recruiting new members. For every new American Legion member you recruit your name is entered in a drawing. They will have a drawing on each of the national target dates; giving away \$100 each time. The more new members you recruit the more chances you have to win.

Neal Thomas, Jr. Centennial Post 209



**DINNER &
COMEDY SHOWCASE SHOW**



WITH
Pam & Otis
RATED "F" for FAMILY



HEADLINER:

The Comedy Magic Of:



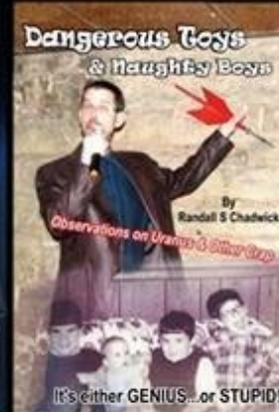
Rodrigo Navarro

Featuring

Funny Douglas



**WITH
Author/Comic**



Randall Chadwick

February 24, 2017

3613 Jeannine Drive
Colorado Springs, CO

www.facebook.com/PuebloPfunny

**Tickets for Members
and their Guests:**

Dinner (6 PM) - \$10

Show (7 PM) - \$10



From the Historian
Eric Testorff

Wreaths Across America

On Saturday, 17 December, 2016, members of Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 participated in a nationwide event. Wreaths Across America is now an annual observance on the third Saturday in December to honor our military's fallen, those currently serving, and the veterans who have passed on before us. The ceremonies happen all across the country at exactly the same time, 12 Noon, EST.

In Colorado Springs, the assembly is held at Memorial Gardens Cemetery at the intersection of Airport Road and Academy Boulevard. It was here, on a blustery, snowy winter's day with the temperature hovering at zero degrees, that volunteers came nevertheless, to observe and remember the sacrifices made by so many in the name of our republic.

The indoor ceremony was held in the cemetery's chapel, and was hosted by the staff of Dignity Memorial, who owns the cemetery and funeral home. The proceedings were presided over by the Commander of the American Legion Department of Colorado, Jay Bowen. The Honor Guard of Post 209 presented the Colors for the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem before Mr. Bowen made his remarks. Jay then called forth the representatives of each branch of our military services to lay a wreath beneath the flag of their brothers and sisters in arms.

- David Hall laid a wreath in remembrance of those who served and are serving in the U.S. Army.
- Jerry Lollar, on behalf of his father, Col. Bill B. Lollar, laid a wreath in remembrance of those who served and are serving in the U.S. Marine Corps.
- Rusty Bower laid a wreath in remembrance of those who served and are serving in the U.S. Navy.
- MSgt. Stan Krasinski laid a wreath in remembrance of those who served and are serving in the U.S. Air Force.
- Mike Cramer, on behalf of his father-in-law, Charles Weber, laid a wreath in remembrance of those who served and are serving in the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Ken Taylor, on behalf of his uncle, Robert Taylor, laid a wreath in remembrance of those who served and are serving in the U.S. Merchant Marines.
- Last but not least, American Legion Post 209 Commander Michael Barger laid a wreath in honor of the 93,129 United States Servicemen from all branches of service whose last known status was either Prisoner of War, or Missing in Action.

After the playing of Taps and the Retirement of the Colors, the ceremony adjourned to the outside laying of wreaths on the graves of departed service members. Many ceremony participants and volunteers from the audience fanned out across the cemetery grounds to graves, marked by a small flag, of our departed brothers and sisters in arms. They brushed the snow from each marker, read the inscription of name and military service, laid the wreath, and some rendered the hand salute. The wreaths are live, not artificial, and bring the greenery and symbolism of life to the wintry graves. Even on such a cold and blustery day, there was the assurance of: "You are not forgotten."

Last December, 2015, was the first year we observed Wreaths Across America in Colorado Springs with 100 wreaths. This year, our second, we placed over 400. Next year's ceremony will be held on December 16th,



DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE FROM THE VA?



Help has Arrived

What? Our American Legion Department Service Office will be in Colorado Springs the 4th Saturday of Every Month during most of 2017.

Where? Centennial Post 209 at 3613 Jeannine Drive.

Time? 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Why? To assist our local Veterans with Claims and to Provide Information Related to Their Medical Benefits.

FAQ:

Do I have to be a member of The American Legion?

No. We Will Offer Assistance to Any Qualified Veteran.

Do I need an Appointment?

No, but it is Recommended. Call 303-914-5585 to Make an Appointment, but Walk-ins are Welcome.

What Do I Bring?

DD214, as well as the following that pertains to your situation: Marriage Certificate; Divorce Decree; Death Certificate; and any Civilian Medical Records.



Tell your Veteran Friends and Neighbors!





Junior Shooting Sports Update Ken Taylor, Chairman



The Young Guns have wrapped up another great year with 20 new shooters having received training in gun safety and marksmanship. Nine shooters participated in the local American Legion Postal Championship on December 14th, 2016, with final scores to be determined in February. Any shooter who scores high enough, will be invited to shoot in the State Regional contest. Forty shooters from the Regionals will then be selected to compete for \$5000 and \$1000 scholarships at the Olympic Center in July 2017.

The next Junior Shooting class begins on February 8, 2017 at 6:30pm. We have twelve openings in each class and the February 2017 class already has eight students registered. If you need information or want to register, please contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or send an email to jssp209@gmail.com.

You can check us out on Face Book where there are pictures and a video. Just go to legion209.org and click on the Young Guns Icon that is on the lower left side of the Home Page.



From Squadron 209
Commander Ken Taylor

I trust that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you to all our SAL members who worked hard to make 2016 a great year. I hope that 2017 will be a successful year for you and for the Legion family here at Post 209.

On November 18, 2016, the SAL held a silent auction to benefit Children & Youth programs. The auction was a great success raising \$590 which was used for the Child Welfare Fund and the Josh Dog program. With this money, we reached our \$1500 goal for CWF and helped purchase two more cases of Josh Dogs to be given to children at Memorial and St. Francis Hospitals. I want to thank the Legion Family at Post 209 for making the auction a success and for all your donations along the way.

SAL memberships expired December 31, 2016. Our goal is 101 members and we are currently at 74 which includes renewals and a few new memberships. If you haven't renewed, please renew now to keep your membership current and help us continue our successful programs. The cost is \$20 for those who are 18 and older, or just \$10 for members under 18.



Rusty Bower's column to bring a little "salt" to the post.

Origin of NAVY Terminology Rusty Bower



Swashbuckler: What is a Swashbuckler?

1. A Flamboyant swordsman or adventurer
2. A sword-wielding ruffian or bully
3. A dramatic or literary work dealing with a Swashbuckler

Although you and I may associate "swashbuckling" with pirate stories and Hollywood movies, the term was originally anything but complimentary. A "Swashbuckler" when the word first appeared around 1560, was swaggering braggart, bully or ruffian. "Swashbuckler" actually came from the antiquated words "swash" (to make a noise by striking) and "buckler" (shield).

A "Swashbuckler" was originally a mediocre swordsman who compensated by making a great deal of noise, strutting through the streets banging his sword on his shield, challenging passersby to duels, and just generally acting like a jerk.

Although the real "Swashbucklers" were mostly cheap bullies, swashbuckling got a romantic spin in popular adventure novels, and later in dozens of Hollywood "Swashbucklers" pirate movies starring the likes of Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. and Errol Flynn. Thanks to this movie magic, "Swashbucklers" were transformed from loudmouthed losers into daring adventurers, roving the world in search of thrills and treasure. Just how effective this historical rewrite was, can be judged from the fact that "Swashbucklers" has lately been adopted by investment bankers and corporate takeover artists to affectionately describe the most rapacious members of their breed. **Me thinks it may be time to dust off me favorite old pirate tradition for these people: Walking the plank!**



AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



WALK OF HONOR

Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

If you have attended some of our meetings over the past several months, you may have heard us discuss plans for a new fundraising effort. We are partnering with Polar Engraving to offer our members, family, friends, and our corporate Veteran-friendly supporters an opportunity to purchase an engraved brick to adorn our landscaping project we are working. The bricks are engraved using a hybrid method that combines both laser engraving and sandblasting. The engraving is then painted using the same paint used on tombstones so it's extremely durable. Here are the details/answers to questions we anticipate:

- **What Are We Having?** A Brick Fundraising Event
- **Why?** To Further Funding of our American Legion Programs and Offset Increasing Costs
- **What Size Are the Bricks?** We are offering 4"x 8" or 8"x 8" bricks for individuals, and 8"x 8" or 12"x 12" bricks for our corporate supporters.
- **What are the Costs for the Individual Bricks?** Prices range from \$75 to \$200, depending on size, style and lettering desired. For the 8x8 or 12x12 bricks, you can add a second emblem. Contact the Adjutant for ordering details. There is **NO** additional cost for the second emblem on the larger bricks.
- **What are the Costs for the Corporate/Veteran Supporter Bricks?** Prices range from \$125 to \$500, again depending on size, style and lettering.
- **What is the Difference between Individual and Corporate Bricks?** Individual bricks are identified for Veterans, and family members of Veterans wishing to purchase a brick to honor their Veteran. The corporate bricks are for our Veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who wish to show their continued support to our Nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the Brick Purchase Restricted to Members of the Post 209 Family?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves as a lasting memory of their association with Post 209. We also welcome anyone to purchase a brick for their Veteran loved one, or to show their support to our Veterans.
- **Can I Buy a 12"x 12" Brick for Myself/Loved One?** Absolutely!
- **Where Do I Go to Buy a Brick?** Visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is very user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. You will be able to see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How Do I Pay For the Brick?** We have the site setup to accept payment via PayPal or by 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 shipped 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 and will be part of the landscaping design we are working. 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 to only sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project. Currently, that is anticipated to be 600 bricks, but that number may change depending on brick sizes purchased and the final design approved by the Post.
- **Will I Have an Opportunity to Buy a Brick Later?** Quite possibly. It depends 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 project. If you buy multiple bricks, let our Adjutant know and we will make certain they are all placed together.



Happy New Year!

The Officers of the Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 American Legion family want to wish all of you a very happy and prosperous New Year!

We all hope 2017 brings you much joy and happiness.

We also hope you find it in your heart to set aside just a few hours per month to come to YOUR Post and visit, and possibly donate the gift of your time.

We look forward to serving you, our Veterans, and our community throughout 2017.

May God Bless and keep you!

Post

Cdr Mike Barger
SVC Lino Calica
JVC Bob Caddell
Adjutant Marvin Weaver Jr.
Finance Off. Rusty Bower
Chaplain Paul Darrow
J.A. Larry Johnson
PEC Greg Smith
Svc Off. Lyle Hagelberg
Historian Eric Testorff
S-A-A Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski

Unit

President Cathy Barger
VP Pat Weaver
Secretary Lynn Thomas
Treasurer Kellie Hayes
Chaplain Jackie Burd
S-A-A Donna Testorff
Historian Donna Rae Smith

Squadron

Cdr Ken Taylor
SVC Marvin Weaver
JVC Rick Kettering
Adjutant Steve Wolford
Finance Off. Rusty Bower
S-A-A Steve Cox
Chaplain Christopher Keith
Historian Eric Testorff

ALR

President Andy Gilbert
VP Mike Barger
Secretary Cathy Barger
Treasurer Rusty Bower
S-A-A Lino Calica
Road Captain Grady Mitchell



From the Judge Advocate

Larry Johnson

I would like to wish everyone who reads this letter a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and I ask that you pass this on to everyone you know.

Did you know that the Neal Thomas Jr. - Centennial Post 209 has been have involved with Public Relations for a number of years? Some of things the Post has done include helping to remodel a school playground for our community. Our Honor Guard has been in the forefront with participation in Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, participation in the Saluting America Veterans Day activities with the School Districts of Colorado Springs as well as many funeral and other services provided to our Veterans and families.

The Post will be supporting RJ Promotions, the Colorado Springs Gun Show and the Prospectors Sertoma Gun Shows. What this means is that the Post will be out in front of the public 18 times in the next 12 months letting them know about The American Legion and Post 209 and what we offer to help our Veterans.

We have an amazing group of group Legion Family Members who are always ready and willing to help. However, they get tired and worn out and could use some replacements. This allows you to use your skills and knowledge to help the Post and others.

There will be a paper posted at the Post to sign up for the date and time that you will be able to help or if need be please give me (Larry Johnson) a call at 719-930-0232 so I can put you down to help.



From the Historian

Eric Testorff

Many American Legion members in Colorado have heard of Department Commander Jay Bowen's call to "Protest the Protest." This is in response to a number of athletes, both nationally and in Colorado, who have taken a knee or refused to stand for our National Anthem or to honor the flag. Commander Bowen believes this is wrong, and has called upon the American Legion family, and indeed all citizens, to resist this trend with a protest of their own: one where they show patriotism and respect for the American flag.

One such citizen is Stephen Martin, owner of Prime Time Sports in the Chapel Hills mall in Colorado Springs. Mr. Martin had an arrangement with a well-known Denver sports figure to make an appearance at his store for autographs and publicity. But after that player refused to stand for our National Anthem, Steve canceled the appearance. Regardless of any negative impact on his business, Stephen Martin decided he was looking for a different direction to go regarding the "protest" issue. In the end, he would employ some symbolism of his own that would honor his country by honoring those who have sacrificed so much.

Stephen decided to put up his own wall of remembrance at the store. He covered his front store windows with hundreds of photos of veterans, active duty, those injured in the line of duty, and yes, those who have paid the ultimate price. He asked for folks to send him photos of loved ones in the military, and they responded in droves. The project has been so successful that he ran out of window space, and had to remove some photos just so business could proceed. The management at Chapel Hills Mall has been very supportive, and even offered Mr. Martin space at a vacant storefront with window glass many times the size of his current windows.



On December 3rd, 2016, Commander Bowen and local Legionnaires Mike Barger, Commander of Post 209, and Eric Testorff, District 7 and Post 209 Historian, paid a visit to Prime Time Sports in order to honor the efforts of Stephen Martin. Jay presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation from the American Legion, Department of Colorado, for his efforts in supporting veterans and promoting patriotism and Americanism through his actions. Commander Bowen noted that Mr. Martin has risked some personal and business capital as a result of his stand, but remains undeterred, and even has plans to expand the project.



Congratulations to Mr. Stephen Martin and Prime Time Sports of Colorado Springs. You are leading the way in our community with your commitment to remembrance and honor of our veterans, our flag and our country.



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SPRINGFIELD, CO 81073
PHONE: 719-523-3143
E-MAIL: PRAIRIEMETALWORKS@GMAIL.COM

ANDREA KEENAN
OWNER / DESIGNER

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

We are adding something new to *The Centennial* Newsletter. If you know of a business or have one you would like to advertise in our newsletter, get with our Post Adjutant, Marvin Weaver, Jr. He will work with you on pricing and requirements to get your name and business card out there. Advertising in this Newsletter does not mean we recommend the business; we are merely offering sponsors/supporters a venue for advertising.

Bringing a Little South to the West

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

Every time I enter into a conversation about my high school days, I tell people I went to the same school 12, almost 13 years. It often results in a chuckle, but it's also very true. Man, 10th grade was horrible...and long!

My parents bought a house in June the same year I was born in April. They made the house into a home and lived there for 36 years. Our home would probably still be there and a member of my family would probably still be living in it if it weren't for a little thing in our US Constitution called "Eminent Domain." That little 5th Amendment term gives the Government the authority to kick someone out of their private home of 36 years and use the property "for the good of the public." It's not all bad, the Government must also pay the homeowner just compensation for the property, and in the case of my childhood home, my parents made out very well monetarily speaking. They didn't want to give up their home, but they weren't ask. Anyway, that's a story for another time. I just wanted to point out I lived in the same house all of my childhood life.

About 3 miles from my home in the suburbs was an Elementary, Jr. High, and High School; all on the same ground and in two buildings. It was Oakhaven School, home of the Hawks (how interesting and a little ironic that I would spend most of my military career working on the HAWK missile system)! Bus #9, driven by Mr. Hamm would pick us up right across the street from my house and take us to school.

I was never what you would call a straight "A" student. I wasn't even a solid "C" student. I did however, have my moments. I brought home nothing but "A's" and "B's" in the third grade, and I even made the honor roll a couple of times as a senior, but everything in between went haywire.

I always had a good excuse for poor grades. For example, President Kennedy was assassinated when I was in the 5th grade. My teacher was a proud Texan and was devastated that her home State would be remembered as the place where Kennedy was killed. I was probably scarred for life by her depression and being the empathetic person that I am, it had an adverse effect on my grades that year. Or at least that's how I remember it.

The next year I made the Safety Patrol. I rose to the envied rank of co-captain, and as a result I was responsible for handing out duty assignments and intersections close to school for other Safety Patrol kids. I made certain I had the best assignment; a perk of being a co-captain. That was also in the days before we had adults helping. I never was much good at multi-tasking so that focus took a toll on my grades that year. Or at least that's how I remember it.

In the 7th, 8th and 9th grade, I became interested in organized sports. I ran track and played football. I was never very good at either, but I loved to play football. Track was something I just did because buddies did it also. I was pretty decent in the 100 yard dash, but really stunk at the 440 and anything that had the word "relay" in it. I was NOT a distance runner, which actually improved when I joined the Army. Funny, they have a way of helping you learn to do things you would not normally do on your own. And I would NEVER run longer than 100 yards at a time on my own. Anyway, sports got in the way of grades during those years. Or at least that's how I remember it.

And then I entered the 10th grade. I got my driver's license and a part-time job after school. I was allowed to date on weekends (with a 10:00 curfew). My buddies and I would cruise the town as long as we could "pool" our money to buy gas for the '64 Buick Special I bought. I recall many nights we would pull up to the gas station and get \$1.00 worth of gas from the change we put together. But back then, a dollar was often more than 5 gallons. I had way too much on my plate to worry about school. By the time I realized I was headed to Summer School, it was too late to change the course of destiny. I spent the summer of my 16th year on earth sitting in school while the rest of my family and most of my friends went on vacations. I flunked Spanish, English (I know, huh, a Southerner who can't pass English?), and Algebra. I had to make up Algebra and English in Summer School. But it really wasn't my fault. Or at least that's how I remember it.

That year in Summer School turned me around...at least for a while. I made certain I was just good enough to pass the 11th grade. And then something happened to me as a senior. I realized that my years as a student would probably be fondly remembered as one of the best times of my life. And it was. I was very active as a senior in many clubs and events. I made the honor roll a couple of times. I met the love of my life the year before and we continued to date when I was a senior (We have now been dating for 45 years this month; we hold the record for my high school class). I spent my 3rd year in ROTC, which really benefitted me when I went into the Army. I graduated Basic Training as an E-3, and was making \$190 a month! Wow! Big bucks!

I went to the same school 12, almost 13 years. If not for my parents' insistence that I attend Summer School I would have repeated the 10th grade. I may never have met Jackie, and would not have entered the military when I did. I can't imagine my life being any different, or better, than the way I have lived it so far. Or at least that's how I remember it.



Post Officers 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Bob Caddell	719-393-5180
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Paul R. Darrow	719-237-4461
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-556-8326
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Post Exec. Cmtee	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Larry Johnson	719-230-0232
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Jeremy Boltjes	218-831-0475



ALR Officers 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Secretary	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Grady Mitchell	719-201-3353



Auxiliary Officers 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Vice President	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Jackie Burd	719-590-6615
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073



Sons of The American Legion 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047
Sr. Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Adjutant	Steve Wolford	920-264-4238
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Steve P. Cox	970-580-8191
Chaplain	Christopher Keith	719-382-7845
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177

January 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	6 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	7
8 Suits for Troops! Fundraiser - 2-4:00pm	9	10	11	12	13 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	14 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am
15	16 Martin Luther King ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	17	18	19	20 Department of Colorado Mid-Year Conference, Denver 	21 Department of Colorado Mid-Year Conference, Denver
22 Department of Colorado Mid-Year Conference, Denver 	23	24 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm 	25	26	27 \$10.50 Meal Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	28
29	30	31	Notes: Chef's Surprise Menu Varies Month to Month			

February 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Groundhog Day Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	3 District 7 DMS Open House 12:00-4:00pm, Post 209 Hamdogger 6:00pm 	4 District 7 DMS Open House 8:00am-4:00pm, Post 38
5 Super Bowl District 7 DMS Open House 12:00-4:00pm, Post 209	6	7	8 Young Guns 1830-2030 	9	10 ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	11 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Young Guns 1830-2030 	16	17 Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	18
19	20 Presidents Day ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	21	22 Young Guns 1830-2030 	23	24 Comedy Show/Dinner! Dinner at 6:00pm Show Starts at 7:00pm (See Flyer)	25
26	27	28 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	Notes:			

March 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Chef's Surprise Menu Varies Month to Month			1 Young Guns 1830-2030 	2 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	3 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	4 Biker Ball 6pm - 11pm 
5	6	7	8 Young Guns 1830-2030 	9	10 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	11 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
12 Daylight Saving Begins	13	14	15 Young Guns 1830-2030 	16	17 \$10.50 Meal St. Paddy's Day Dinner RSVP Required! 6:00pm   	18
19	20 Spring Begins ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	21	22 Young Guns 1830-2030 	23	24 \$10.50 Meal Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	25
26	27	28 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	29 Young Guns 1830-2030 	30	31	Notes:

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com