

The Centennial



VOLUME VIII EDITION 1

January 2018

Mail: P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80936-5334

Post: 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, Co 80917-8002

Telephone 719-599-8624

Email: centennialtwozeronline@yahoo.com

Website: www.legion209.org



From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Mike Barger

Well, 2018 is here and we're off and running. It's not like we stopped in December, but we still have a lot of work to do. I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. Hopefully the big guy delivered to your kids and grandkids what they wanted. It's all about the kids. Also, thanks to those that helped with all Post activities in December from the Christmas Party, to the holiday dinner, to Post rentals. I wish good health to all, especially Rick Kettering, for he was able to come home after Thanksgiving, and is still showing signs of improvement. Keep up the good work Rick, and if there's anything you need, don't be afraid to ask your Legion family. *"The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined efforts of each individual"* - Vince Lombardi

It is time for us to begin the final membership push. We need just over 200 members to reach our goal of 1037. I know we have it in us to hit this goal again (WE CAN DO IT). Thanks for the hard work everyone has put in so far. Our membership report on December 4th showed we were at 826 members, so we're at or just a little below where we were last year. If you know a member who hasn't renewed, please remind them what we do as a Post here in our community. Remember, you bring me one new member, and I will buy you a Friday night dinner of your choosing, so don't be afraid to come collect on this. You do have to RSVP for the dinner, to ensure Art has enough food available. *"There is no greater calling to serve your fellow men. There is no greater contribution to help the weak. There is no greater satisfaction than to have done it well"* - Walter Reuther

As most of you are probably aware, construction on the new Pikes Peak National Veterans Cemetery has begun, so hopefully by this November, they'll be placing the first of many Veterans to their final resting home. We'll keep you up to date on any information that needs to be communicated. You can also get updates if you follow Pikes Peak National Veterans Cemetery Committee Facebook page. If you're interested in being part of the Pikes Peak Veterans Honor Guard, please contact Eric Testorff, for he is heading this up. Guaranteed, we will be asked to assist once the new cemetery opens. *"Every person has a longing to be significant: to make a contribution; to be part of something noble and purposeful"* - John C. Maxwell.

Keep in mind that in April, elections for Post officer positions will be coming up, so if you're interested in running for one please make sure to contact our Adjutant, Marvin Weaver Jr. and let him know what position you'd like to put in for. You can put your name in for multiple positions, so if you don't get one, you may get another. It's always nice to get new folks involved, for they have some great ideas to continue to make this the best Post in the Department. *"When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die"* - Eleanor Roosevelt

Don't forget, January 25-28th is Department Mid-year at Arvada Post 161. If you can make it to even just one day, please do. There's always good information at these, and you can see our Department officers at work.

With a new year beginning, it's never too early for us to begin looking at some fundraising events that we can hold here at the Post, to help keep this Post open and running. Our Capital Fund committee is still looking for more ideas that we can look at and determine if it's something we'd benefit from. We will start up the committee meetings again this month on the 3rd Thursday of the month (January 18th) at 6:30 pm. If you're interested in coming down and assisting with this, feel free to. The more good ideas we can gather and implement, would be beneficial to us. Keep in mind, if you come in with an idea, we'd like for you to head it up. If you donated to the Post last year, make sure to contact Rusty Bower for your tax letter, so you can claim it on your taxes.

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



From the Unit 209 President

Cathy Barger

Man, it's hard to believe it's already 2018. I hope everyone had a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year with your family and friends. 2017 was a busy year, and as a Post we helped numerous families and shared many times together which included all the holiday events, Post meetings, Post dinners and Post sponsored events, not to mention helping with Post rentals and I just want to give a thank you to all those that volunteer their hours in 2017.

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, who was escorted in by Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer) 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 2018, please send in your check for \$30.

Don't forget, we'll be having our regular monthly meeting January 13th. 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 25th thru January 28th in Arvada, CO. I believe hotel rooms are still available at the Hilton Garden Inn, 5455 Olde Wadsworth Blvd, (303) 420-9799 and let them know you're booking a room for the American Legion Conference and you'll get the room rate at \$99 a night.

We would like to wish the following ladies a HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Essie Armstrong, Julie Baldwin, Marcia Bangs, Carleigh Berry, Ashlyn Bock, Brianna Bock, Linda Cancellieri, Lana Fore, Patty Gooding, Joyce Moyer, Frances Gortmaker, Chelsea Hayes, Sally Laveirge, 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!



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 are looking good on membership but we still need 200 more members to reach our membership goal. If you have not already renewed please do so and continue to recruit new members.

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.

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 one coming up is Department Mid-Year Conference. Mid-Year will be held in Arvada, January 25th – 28th. Make plans to attend if you are able.



Response To Prayers

Department of Colorado Chaplain Stan Hamamoto

Note: This is a follow on response to a Letter to the Editor from last month's Centennial Newsletter regarding why a Chaplain at a Post event invoked the name of Jesus in his prayer.

As your Department Chaplain, I have been asked this question a lot. At the National Chaplain's conference, we have discussed this issue over and over in the three years I have attended this Conference. The outcome is always the same, it's up to the individual that is saying the prayer. For many of us ordained ministers, it's very hard not to say the name of Jesus Christ. I myself try to not do it, but I do slip up and say it on occasions.

The perception that as Christians we do not care of the other religions is totally wrong. As Chaplains, we do care about all religions, and we are trying to be sensitive to the situation. We know there are many other religions besides the Protestant religion. I myself was raised in the Buddhist religion until I converted to Christianity at a very late age. I recall when I told my mother that I was a Christian, she told me, "we all pray to one GOD and it is just that we do it in different ways, it is not wrong to pray the way we want to. Just respect the other person's way of praying."

Keep in mind that as a Chaplain it is very hard to keep all of the different religions in place and it's very hard to satisfy all of them. We try our very best to do what is right, but you must understand that as we pray to the members of the American Legion, many times we fall back to what we have been doing for many years. I once said a prayer at our church and did not end "in Jesus Christ name we pray." Many of the members of the congregation let me have it. It is not a switch you can automatically turn on and off, I wish it was that simple.

I say to all of the Chaplains, just do your best and keep GOD in front of you all the time. HE knows that you are trying to do HIS work and that it is very hard to please all of the people, all of the time. As you start the New Year, welcome HIM into your prayers and be mindful of all of the other religions, as I know you all do.

Harvey LeCato, USAF Ret., to you I can only say, we Chaplains all try and please excuse us if we as human beings make a mistake some times. GOD is guiding us all and we just follow HIS direction and HIS way of doing things. I believe that we all believe there is only ONE GOD and HE is our only Commander always. I hope this clears up something that may have been bothering you and some others. I would be more than happy to talk to you about this matter for it always comes up and many times not only at the Post level.

Shalom to you and I leave you with my very last three words: **"GO TO CHURCH!"**

RSVP! RSVP! RSVP!

We're sending out a plea for your support. Have you noticed at the bottom of every page in this newsletter there is an RSVP contact name and number? In addition, have you noticed on our calendars there are dinners listed that indicate we need your RSVP?

This is critical to help keep prices low. If Art has a headcount, he knows how much food to buy and prepare. Food is not wasted, and that helps to keep costs low.

The only two meals we serve that don't require an RSVP is Hamdogger (1st Friday), and our breakfast.

Sadly, this past month at our Thanksgiving Holiday Dinner we had to turn away several people who had RSVP'd because there were SEVERAL who came for dinner who did not, and they got there first. The Commander told Rusty to start adding another \$2.00 to the cost of the dinner for anyone who shows up not on Jackie's RSVP list. Folks, this is not to punish but to encourage and provide incentive to RSVP. He indicated if this continues, we may ask people who come to a dinner without RSVP to wait until all who did is served.

Let's all our part to help keep prices low, and allow everyone to enjoy a Friday night dinner.

Also, as a reminder, no one under the age of 21 is allowed upstairs in the bar or game room. Executive board voted at last meeting to keep it this way. Thank you.

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



From the Sergeant-at-Arms
Stan "Sgt. Ski" Kransinski

Good day all Legion Post 209 family members,



If you read my offering in the December Newsletter you will recall that I spoke of what it means to be a "MVP" in the Legion.



MEMBER-VOLUNTEER-PARTICIPANT!

With this in mind, I, as your Sergeant-at-Arms, am initiating a new Legion Post 209 program..."The MVP Collection!"

This will be a recognition opportunity for all Post members to nominate another Post member for their contribution to our cause.

Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Membership and Post Activities, Public Relations and Legislative.

This could be an effort huge in scale, their first involvement in a Post activity, made a positive difference in a child's or veterans' life, showed up to share a smile, whatever.

Any Post member...for any reason...Legion related.

There will be a "MVP Collection" nomination box made available at the front counter by our General Membership Meeting in January for January nominations.

The Post Executive Committee will review all the nominations and select the recipient during their meeting on the first Thursday of February.

The recipient will then be recognized during the General Membership Meeting that following Saturday.

The Sergeant-at-Arms will then arrange to interview the recipient for an offering under their title in the next monthly Newsletter.

This will repeat monthly ongoing!

"Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things." Peter F. Drucker

I will make a presentation at the January General Membership Meeting announcing the program.

Please become an American Legion Post 209 "MVP Collection" member...step up and help and/or nominate someone who has.

Assistance is needed throughout our efforts!

"Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another." John C. Maxwell

'We can only make a difference if we are involved...participants not spectators.'

Thank you for your continued service, Happy Holidays and please have a great day/week!



From the Junior Shooting Sports Chairman Ken Taylor

The next NRA Marksmanship Class starts at 6:30 PM on Wednesday February 14, 2018. The new shooters class starts on Thursday February 15, 2018 at 6:30 PM. At this time, we have 7 shooters enrolled in our class of 12. Please contact the Junior Shooting Sports Chairman, Ken Taylor, at 719-761-4047 for more information or to enroll. You can also send an email to jssp209@gmail.com. Our Facebook page can be located by going to legion209.org and clicking on the Young Guns icon. The Facebook page has a video and you can also follow the links to download our brochure and a registration form.



From the Sr. Vice Commander
Eric Testorff

On December 16th, 2017, members of American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 were very much at the forefront of honoring our departed Veterans with the Wreaths Across America event.

Each year, on the third Saturday in December, the graves of departed Veterans nationwide are decorated with live wreaths for the Christmas season. The event happens simultaneously across all time zones in the U.S.A. In the Pikes Peak region, ceremonies began at 10:am. This year, thousands of wreaths were placed at Memorial Gardens Funeral Home and Cemetery in Colorado Springs, the Air Force Academy cemetery, and Imperial Memorial Gardens cemetery in Pueblo. The wreaths were purchased from Wreaths Across America, with a deadline ending in late November to allow time for delivery to the cemetery.

In the chapel at Memorial Gardens in Colorado Springs, the Post 209 Honor Guard posted the Colors of the United States, along with the service flags from each branch of the military and the POW/MIA flag. This was followed by a keynote address by the Adjutant of the American Legion Department of Colorado, Mr. Charles "Pat" Smith. After Mr. Smith's remarks, uniformed past and present members of each service branch conducted the solemn "Laying of the Service Wreaths".

Representing the Army: Dave Hall

Representing the Marine Corps: Antonio Barrera

Representing the Navy: Rusty Bower

Representing the Air Force: Stan Krasinski

Representing the Coast Guard: Michael Wescott

Representing the Merchant Marine: Ken Taylor

And laying the POW/MIA wreath: Post 209 Commander, Mike Barger

The assembly then moved outside, where close to 100 volunteers walked the grounds and placed wreaths on each of the roughly 1,750 military graves in the cemetery. Many of the volunteers followed the tradition of reading the inscription of each grave marker, laying the wreath, then rendering the hand salute.

It is a fitting, and heart-warming thing to see so many folks remembering our departed military members during the Christmas season. For information on purchasing a wreath for next year's event, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org or for local info, contact Eric Testorff at: etestorff@legion209.org.

They Have Finally Broken Ground on the New VA Cemetery

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

Some thought it would never happen. But it is becoming a reality. They have broken ground and there are large earth moving equipment leveling the site and prepping it for construction.

For those who haven't been keeping up, the new Pikes Peak National Cemetery will be located on Drennan Road, about a mile east of Marsheffel. There is a sign facing the road identifying the site.

Stay connected to us for updates. The Commander has asked our Jr. Vice to get someone from the Cemetery Committee or the VA to visit us at a near future Membership meeting to give more information. You will want to plan to attend this very important meeting. This has been about a 15 year project finally coming to fruition.





A New Year, A New Beginning

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

Can you believe it is already 2018? Wow, fun flies when you're doing time!

This is the time of year that many people perform a self-assessment or re-evaluation and resolve to do something different, or better. We do this because for a very short period of time we recognize we are not perfect and want to do something to be a better person. So we make New Years' Resolutions. We vow that starting with 1 January we'll quit smoking, drink less, pay more attention to our loved ones, do something daring, and a myriad of other things. We make these resolutions with good intentions, but there's an old saying that "the road to hell is paved with good intentions."

And with most of us, our New Years' Resolutions don't last long. If you can make it through January without breaking them, you're probably doing better than half the people who make a resolution. If you can make it through April without slipping, you stand a very good chance of actually keeping the resolution. The only one I've ever been able to keep is many years ago I vowed I would not make any more New Years' Resolutions. I've finally been able to keep one...until now.

I resolve to work hard to help make The American Legion an even better organization. I will immerse myself into helping set policies that will strengthen TAL and the four Pillars on which we stand. If I see something I believe needs changed or massaged, I'll work within the system to help make that happen. I won't just shrug my shoulders and say someone else will do that. I will try to be a better team player. I will try to remember the Serenity Prayer and practice what it teaches. I will do my part to help grow this great organization. I will work our programs and encourage others to work with me.

So what are your resolutions for 2018? Do they include anything to do with The American Legion family? Are you willing or interested in helping make this a better organization? You should be. This is not someone else's organization or programs. It belongs to all of us. We all joined without coercion and are members for a reason. And the reasons vary from person to person. Regardless why you joined, this is your organization as well as it is mine. It will only succeed if you and I take an active role in making it work. I resolve to do my part. Will you help?

Let's all make a New Years' Resolution to work together to help our Veterans, their families, our youth, increase our National security, and spread Americanism throughout the state. As we enter into the Centennial of this great organization, let's keep the tradition going that was started almost 100 years ago. Let's strive to **Be Part Of The Solution!**



Something New! We Want To Hear From You!

As previously mentioned, we have a new feature to *The Centennial* newsletter. Do you have an issue or recommendation? Something you want to get off your chest? Is there someone or something you want to highlight? Maybe you have a comment about an article in the newsletter. If so, we invite you to send a "Letter To The Editor." Remember the ground rules:

- Send it via email to letters@legion209.org, or;
- Send it via "snail mail to: Letters to the Editor, C/O American Legion Post 209 at our P.O. Box address
- It must have your name. No letters will be published without that information
- It cannot be about a political party or candidate (this is an American Legion publication)
- If the letter exceeds 250 words, we may condense or not publish the letter
- The Editor (Commander) and Publisher (Jay Bowen) reserves the right to edit and/or not publish the letter



From the Historian - January

Chris Earley

The city of New Orleans, a crescent at the mouth of the mighty Mississippi is known today for Mardi Gras and jazz. But In the winter of 1815, the British saw it as the key to victory against the Americans and the War of 1812. Own New Orleans and you control access to the Mississippi and the newly purchased American lands to west. Spurred on by previous victories at Baltimore and Plattsburgh, the Redcoats began their attack on New Orleans on December 12th with the Battle of Lake Borgne.

Lake Borgne lies just southeast of Lake Pontchartrain, and on that morning some 1200 British sailors were tasked with clearing out the American ships blocking access to the lakes. The Brits attacked in 42 longboats and quickly defeated the Americans, thus freeing the lakes for the invasion force.

By December 23rd, the British army has reached the eastern bank of the Mississippi. New Orleans was now easy pickings.....but in one of those fateful moments that changes history, the British commander John Keane instead of attacking chose to encamp and wait for further troop to arrive. Unfortunately, this period allowed Major General Andrew Jackson to become aware of the British positions. Jackson attacked the Englishmen and then retreated to Rodriguez canal.

While the battle itself could hardly be called a victory, it did give the British pause and they continued to wait for further reinforcements, and it would prove to be their undoing.

While the British waited, Jackson got to work. First, he declared Martial Law in the city and effectively enlisted every able bodied man whether they be military, citizen, slave, or pirate. "Old Hickory" ordered the Rodreguez to be widened and earthworks built. Upon these earthworks Jackson had 8 batteries of artillery placed and thus Rodreguez Canal became "Line Jackson".

On the morning of January 1st the British began a relentless bombardment of the earthworks. The British were nearing success when they ran out of ammunition with many Americans abandoning their positions. Once again the British hesitated and once again it would cost them.

Finally, on January 8th under the leadership of Lieutenant General Edward Pakenham, the English launched a two pronged attack. The first attack led by Colonel Robert Rennie was to attack across the Mississippi, however shortly after the attack began he was mowed down and the British troops were quickly routed and picked off as they fled the battle.

Unfortunately for the British, Pakenham wasn't having any better luck with the main force attacking Line Jackson. Counting on the prevalent fog in the area his troops began their approach on the redoubts. But with the rising sun the fog lifted leaving the Americans with unobstructed views of the advancing troops. Reinforcements for the English were delayed when boats became trapped in the mud of the Mississippi.

In the end, some 4,732 Americans successfully defended the City of New Orleans against a British force of 14,450. The final major battle of the War of 1812 was a decidedly lopsided victory for the Americans with 333 casualties compared to the English 2459. The Battle would immortalize Andrew Jackson and he would go on to become the 7th President.

It would have been interesting to see how history would have played out had the British been victorious. Would anything have really changed? For unbeknownst to both sides, they technically were not at war! The Americans and British had already made peace with the signing of the Treaty of Trent back on December 24th.

And that is history!



From Squadron 209

By Commander Ken Taylor

Happy New Year from Squadron 209! We've been busy through the Holidays! We finished up our "Gently Used" clothing donations for Veterans at the VA and the Crawford House in early November. Also in November, we presented Josh Dogs at St. Francis and Memorial Hospitals, which are always warmly received. After presenting Josh Dogs at Memorial, we visited past SAL 209 Commander and current Adjutant Rick Kettering. Rick had an accident in early November, which put him in the hospital. He is now doing much better and recovering at home. It was a great visit! On December 2, we, along with the Post 209 family, helped Rick finish the move to his new house, which was interrupted by the accident he had in early November.



Memorial Hospital



St Francis Hospital



Visiting Rick



The Moving Crew

The Silent Auction we held during the Turkey Shoot in November was a great Success! We took in over \$600 for the Child Welfare Foundation and the Josh Dog program and the Turkey Shoot produced \$160 for the Young Guns. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped support our programs.

As a reminder, SAL Memberships run through the calendar year, so your membership expires on December 31, 2017. If your membership card says 2017, please renew now for 2018. The cost is \$10 for those under 18 and \$20 for those who are 18 and older. Thanks for your past support of our Squadron and we look forward to everyone's support in 2018.

Need a Tax Deduction?

I know we are starting a New Year. But now is the perfect time to start thinking about tax deductions for 2018. One way you can do this is by making a donation (see form below) to our Capital Fund. This money will be placed in a special account and used to keep our Post operating. If you've been to our monthly meeting, you've heard Rusty talk about how we are "in the red" most months. This is because we help Veterans and often have to dip into savings to pay the bills. We are trying to come up with ideas to stop the bleeding! We do not want to stop helping our Veterans, but our money tree is running out of leaves. Please help us help all of us! Your donation is greatly appreciated. You can also go online at Legion209.org. Click on "Donate" and add special instructions to designate the donation to go to "Post 209 Capital Fund."

Please accept my tax deductible (check with your tax advisor):

Monthly or One Time donation

in the amount of:

\$500 \$150 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other _____

Make checks payable to "AL Post 209-Capital Fund"

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Thank you for supporting:

"Neil Thomas Jr, Centennial American Legion Post 209 Capital Fund,"

3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80917

****PLACE IN LOCKING DROPBOX NEXT TO COFFEE BAR****



Tri-Care Update

From Judge Advocate Marvin Weaver, Sr.

TRICARE Enrollments Shifting from Fiscal to Calendar Year Starting in January 2018

The following information comes from TRICARE. Please be aware that this information does NOT apply to those using **TRICARE For Life**.

Starting January 1, 2018, Cost changes for TRICARE Benefits transition from a fiscal year (Oct. 1 – Sept. 30) to a calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) makes the TRICARE benefit consistent with civilian health plans. The change will largely affect those plans which have an enrollment fee and are currently billed by the fiscal year. This includes retirees and their family members in TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Retired Reserve, TRICARE Reserve Select and those in TRICARE Young Adult plans. This change is one of several **TRICARE is changing. Here is what you need to know:**

Enrollment fees apply to retirees and their family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime, those enrolled in the premium-based plans, and several others, including:

TRICARE Young Adult – Prime Options	TRICARE Young Adult – Standard Options
TRICARE Retired Reserve	TRICARE Reserve Select
	Continued Health Care Benefit Program
(this will continue to follow a fiscal year cycle)	US Family Health Plan

If you're in a plan now that requires enrollment fees, there will be a transition period, from Oct. 1, 2017, to Dec. 31, 2017, so you won't experience additional costs in 2017. During this time, you'll continue to pay your enrollment fees. However, enrollment fees will be prorated for the three-month period and billed accordingly for enrollees who pay on a monthly or quarterly basis. If you pay enrollment fees on an annual basis, you'll be billed for the fees to cover the three-month period and sent a billing notice for the annual fee for calendar year 2018.

TRICARE will extend payments (For example, Catastrophic caps and deductibles) that usually reset on Oct. 1 through the end of the calendar year. Any enrollment fees you pay during the transition period will continue to count against the catastrophic cap until it resets on Jan. 1, 2018. This means that if you reach your fiscal year 2017 catastrophic cap, you will not have additional out-of-pocket. Costs for authorized TRICARE-Covered Services for the last three months of the year. On Jan. 1, 2018 new rules for deductibles and catastrophic caps will apply to some costs.

This is your benefit. Here is what you need to do:

If you pay your enrollment fees by allotment, you don't need to do anything. You will continue to pay your enrollment fees automatically. Unless you cancel your allotment, TRICARE will continue to deduct enrollment fees starting Jan. 1 2018. If you pay enrollment fees by electronic funds transfer (for example, debit card, credit card and electronic check) and are in an area where a new regional contractor will be delivering services, you will need to update your payment method with your new regional contractor in December.



From the Service Officer

Lyle Hagelberg

Comrades, it is another year and I want to wish you a Happy and Prosperous 2018. The Post Veterans Assistance Fund received a generous gift of \$1,000 from our Legion Riders. For that and the 'hats' we passed we are most appreciative. We do not take the responsibility of the Veterans Fund lightly. If we have advance notice of the need for funds, a Veteran can apply to Department, thru us, for help from their Veterans Fund, Children's Fund, or Temporary Financial Assistance. Approval of these requests can take one to two weeks. However, there are times when the Veteran has an immediate need. That's where the Post Veteran's Fund comes in. A tank of gas, a gift card from King Soopers, or two or three nights in a motel to bridge the time before permanent housing starts or a VA check comes in. This is not blowing our own horn, just want to let you know what we do with the donations the Post 209 men and women generously give. Thanks to you from us and those Veterans in need.

Bringing a Little South to the West

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

In some of my previous articles, I made references to the house where I grew up, but I never really shared with you about my neighborhood and details of my home of 18 years. To help you better understand me (Jackie would tell you that's not possible, she's been trying to understand me for almost 50 years), you need to know about where and how I grew up. I believe in many ways, who we are is often reflected in the environment in which our young lives were shaped.

I was born in April, 1953, in Wynne, Arkansas. The fact that it was the first day of the month has no relevance. My parents moved to the Memphis, TN suburb of Oakhaven in June that same year and bought a small 3-bedroom ranch style home with one bath on a corner lot. At the time they bought the house, I had a brother 1 year older than me and a sister 6 years older. About 17 months after I was born, Mom and Dad brought home my little sister.

A family of 6 living in a one bath house was pretty normal for the day. Today, I doubt you can find a new 3-bedroom house with only one bath. We didn't have a shower, just a bath tub. As we grew older, the logistics of scheduling bath time was pretty complicated, but Mom always seemed to make it work.

The Oakhaven district, as it was later called, was initially an unincorporated area. Not too long after Mom and Dad bought the house, the city of Memphis added it to their tax base. The main street we lived on bordered the Memphis airport on the east side. As the airport grew, the planes got closer and closer to the house, but never to the point where we were forced to move (until 36 years later). However, we were close enough to the air traffic that we kept a crack in the small dining area ceiling that stretched from the corner of the room to the light in the middle of the room. And whenever out of town family and friends spent the night with us, they were kept awake all night by the planes taking off and landing. Because we were so accustomed to the noise, we slept right through it. I guess that's one of the reason we didn't many overnight guests.

There was a huge field directly across the street that was owned by the airport. It had a gated asphalt driveway that led to a maintenance shop about 300 yards from the street. But the open field from the street to the maintenance area was our playground. Many football and baseball games were played in that field. The maintenance guys left us alone because we never made an attempt to get close to the maintenance buildings. They weren't using the field and didn't mind us using it. That was before the world became litigious. That could never happen today; too much liability for the airport.

Slowly but surely, "progress" made its way to our neighborhood. The airport continued to grow and more room was needed for more maintenance buildings. I had already left to join the Army when the city exercised the right they had been given by the 5th amendment of our US Constitution and declared "eminent domain" on our world. All the neighbors were notified that their property was needed and staying was not an option. They were allowed to contact the city and get a "fair market price" for their house. When/If they sold, their house was razed and what was once suburban lawns became open fields.

Dad watched as all his neighbors left one by one. He refused to sell or contact the city. As a result, his and Mom's house was the last of about 200 homes to be taken over. Between the time our neighbors left and Mom and Dad were forced out of their home, we took advantage of the open space. Dad had three 4-wheelers and we made good use of what was once a suburb and now a motocross field that stretched for 2 or more miles.

Then one day there was a knock on Dad's door. It was a reporter from one of the local TV stations. He asked what Mom and Dad were doing still living there. Dad explained he raised 4 kids and three dogs at this home and wasn't in any hurry to leave. The reporter told him that according to the city drawings he had, this was a vacant lot. Dad assured him it was definitely not vacant. He told the reporter that not only did they still live there, so did the ghosts of four young kids and three collie dogs. But eventually, they forced Mom and Dad out. While they were given a very fair price for their home and the city picked up the cost to move them, it broke Mom's and Dad's heart to leave. Even though I hadn't lived in that house for almost 20 years, it affected me as well. I still have dreams about the neighborhood and the house.

I have been VERY blessed to live the life I have lived up to this point. My Army career (and since) have taken me many places and to different parts of the country and world. But for me, there will always be two homes; the one I share with my bride of 46 years, and little 3-bedroom one bath home my parents occupied for 36 years in the suburb of Oakhaven in Memphis.

More to come next month about the 'hood. Man, I HATE eminent domain!



Post Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Sr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Jr. Vice Cdr	Jerry Lollar	719-641-2778
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" Krasin-ski	719-373-7814
Historian	Chris Earley	719-338-1398
Post Exec. Cmtee	Bill Burd	719-330-1279
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Marvin Weaver, Sr.	719-638-4763
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Bob Caddell	719-393-5180
Vice President	Steve Hayes	719-494-7166
Secretary	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Tim McDowell	719-510-9907
Road Captain	Grady Mitchell	719-201-3353



Auxiliary Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Vice President	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073
Secretary	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Jackie Burd	719-590-6615
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Nancy LaFayette	719-594-6806



Sons of The American Legion 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047
Sr. Vice Com-mander	Marv Weaver Jr.	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Com-mander	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-373-7814
Adjutant	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Steve P. Cox	970-580-8191
Assistant S-a-Arms	Stanten Krasinski	719-373-7814
Chaplain	Shelten Krasinski	719-373-7814
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <small>New Year's Day</small> Happy New Year! 	2	3	4 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	5 <small>Price Varies with order</small> Hamdogger 6:00pm 	6
7	8 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	9	10	11	12 <small>\$9.00 Meal</small> ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	13 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am
14	15 <small>Martin Luther King</small> ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	16	17	18 Fundraising Committee Meeting 7:00pm	19 <small>\$14.50 Meal</small> Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	20
21	22 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	23 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm 	24	25	26 <small>\$10.50 Meal</small> Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	27
28 Department Mid-Year Conference - Arvada	29	30	31	Notes: Department Mid-Year Conference - Arvada; 25-28 Jan		

February 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	5 Groundhog Day Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	3
4	5 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	6	7	8	12 \$9.00 Meal Auxiliary Dinner - RSVP Required! 	13 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day Marksmanship 6:30pm 	15 Fundraising Cmtee 7pm Young Guns 6:30pm 	19 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	17
18	15 Presidents Day Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  	20	21 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	22 Young Guns 6:30pm 	26 \$10.50 Meal Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	24
25	26	23 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	28 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	Notes:		

March 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Young Guns 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	2 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	3
4	5 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	6	7 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	8 Intl. Women's Day Young Guns 6:30pm 	9 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	10 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
11 Daylight Saving Begins	12	13	14 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	15 Fundraising Cmtee 7pm Young Guns 6:30pm 	16 Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	17 Saint Patrick's Day
18	19 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  	20 Spring Begins (Northern Hemisphere)	21 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	22 Young Guns 6:30pm 	23 Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	24 World Tuberculosis Day
25	26	27 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	28 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	29 Young Guns 6:30pm 	30 Good Friday	31

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