



The Centennial

Volume XIV

Edition 11

November 2023

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209



2023 District 7 Fall Conference conducted at Post 209. All Posts in the District was represented.

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3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917

719.599.8624

www.legion209.org

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>



The American Legion Post 209 Officers 2023-2024

Commander:	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
Adjutant:	Doug Millison	(719) 599-8624
Sr. Vice Commander:	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
Jr. Vice Commander:	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
Finance Officer:	Jeff Heischman	(719) 482-4357
Service Officer:	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
Judge Advocate:	Marvin Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Historian:	Kurt Skinner	(719) 963-3517
Exec. Committeeman:	Art Kimbrel	(719) 339-4610
Chaplain:	Bob "Odie" O'Donnell	(719) 432-6018
Immediate Past CDR:	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2023-2024

President:	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
Vice President:	Cathy Barger	(719) 290-3163
Secretary:	Pat Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Treasurer:	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
Chaplain:	Ariel Foster	(719) 281-7965
Exec.-at-Large:	Jackie Bowen	(901) 481-0673
Historian:	Maria Alicea	(719) 900-8426
Sgt-at-Arms:	Michelle Bresee	



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2023-2024

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



American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2023-2024

President:	Jerry "Rico" Shay	(719) 244-3901
Vice President:	Sean Cope	(719) 246-4820
Secretary:	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
Treasurer:	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
Sgt-at-Arms:	Joe York	(682) 309-4408
Road Captain:	Scott Laudan	(719) 238-2679
Logistics:	Terry Buxton	(419) 989-9669
Communications:	Chris Cicchi	(719) 493-5897
Chaplain:	Jim Bird	(719) 231-4928



From the desk of the Commander

Wow! November already. Where has the year gone? Seems like just yesterday we were celebrating Memorial Day and July 4th. November is a busy month every year at the Post. Starts with the Veterans Day parade and ends with our annual Holiday Dinner.

Veterans Day has taken on a new meaning for me since I joined The American Legion. As a side note did you know that Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day? This was the day the treaty was signed ending WWI. After WWII it was renamed to Veterans Day to honor all Veterans.

One of the things I enjoyed shortly after we stood up our Honor Guard was getting involved with Saluting America at District 11 schools. We made it to many schools with our Honor Guard. We had enough members to field two teams and we would visit 2 – 3 schools each day during Veterans Day week. It was great seeing the looks on the kids' faces as they were able to put a face to what a veteran is. Most schools would also have active-duty parents there for the assembly as well. I remember one year we went to Helen Keller Elementary to raise the flag in front of the school. We raised the flag twice that day because they brought the kids out in two groups. The cool thing about it was while we are standing there at attention as the kids came out we heard a girl say "hey I know them". We were at the school where our then current Commander Greg Smith's kids attended. We were able to talk with the kids before they went back inside.

We went to Wilson Elementary the next year to raise the flag in the morning before school started. We then went into one of the classrooms for about 15 minutes and spoke to the kids. We told them a little bit about what we did while we were active-duty and then took questions. Talk about intimidating, I learned that kids that age listen to what you are saying, although it may have been the weight of the M1 I was carrying that day.

With COVID, this program died out and we have not been able to get back into the schools. This year though we have been asked to come into some of the schools again. Read these articles and the 411 for opportunities. If we don't take advantage of the opportunities given they may go away again.

One of the other things I like about November is the Veterans Day parade that the Post is in every year. The parade in Colorado Springs is one of the biggest in the country and the crowds always come out to thank us for our service. We have the ALR Honor Guard and our Post Honor Guard leading the way along with our trailer with some of us walking. If you haven't made it to the parade or even if you have, we welcome you to come down and participate in the parade with us.

This year we will be having our Annual Holiday dinner on November 17th. This is always a good time and seems to bring out a lot of our Legionnaires for the dinner. The Young Guns will be setting up the range for the Turkey Shoot that we hold every year to help raise funds for the program. Top shots in three different categories receive a turkey. We need people to come out and shoot and take the title away from our Adjutant Doug.

Let me be the first to say Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Veterans Day! Thank you for all you do to help veterans and our Post.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





From our Post Adjutant

The Legion cap we wear today is not often thought of fondly (to say the least). Many of us wore that cap with our dress uniforms and had some indecent nicknames for that headpiece, but we knew little about it. Why did our uniformed services issue such a thing?

Before the flat, envelope looking cap there was the Campaign Hat, a wide brimmed hat with a Montana Peak. Great for protection from the weather and generally worn up until WWII and still worn by some Drill Sergeants today.

During WWI the Campaign Hat did not ship or store well when the troops went overseas. Instead of storing them when the troops switched to their helmets they were cut up and used for hospital slippers and such. Now what are the troops going to wear on their downtime and when going home? In 1918 the Army decided that Doughboys serving in France needed headgear that was comfortable to wear, yet could be stored in the pocket when the helmet was donned. The solution was an Americanized version of the fatigue cap issued to the French Poilus. Since the boys were overseas, it was given the name "Overseas Cap." In 1940 the cap was authorized for wear in the U.S. and was officially renamed the "Garrison Cap."

It is now ingrained in the public's eye through the parades of service members returning home from two world wars and the influx of veterans into society. The challenger? The venerable "Dixie Cup" of the US Navy and Coast Guard. I do not know why the garrison cap won out over the dixie cup, or if it was even considered. I would assume it was the numbers of soldiers and marines verses the sailors. Maybe it was the flat sides where pins and badges could be worn, and where the emblem and Post number could be proudly displayed? That seems reasonable to me.

Today, it is recognized that someone wearing that cap served is still serving. While not the most comfortable, certainly not the most protective, we wear it with pride knowing it is recognizable for what it is. Unlike a ball cap it is recognizable from all sides, maybe not as a Legionnaire, but as a member of a Veteran Service Organization that is still serving America with pride.

A couple overlooked policies regarding the wear of the uniform cap. When wearing the uniform cap in public you are representing The American Legion. The American Legion does not take sides in partisan politics and the cap should not be worn at campaign rallies for any person running for office. The left side (emblem side) of any American Legion cap cannot contain other than the official American Legion emblem and lettering set forth in resolution No. 58 adopted by the NEC Apr 30 – May 1, 1964 for Post, City, County, District, and Department. Additional lettering and all pins and badges are worn on the right side of the cap.

Wear it with pride, wear it correctly.

"Always Forward"

Doug Millison
Adjutant





From our Senior Vice Commander

Great turnout for the Early Bird dinner celebrating our early membership renewals. We were nearly 9% past our goal for October 18th with just under 64% renewed, which is great, but we still need to close out our renewals for the 2024 year! Double check your membership card and make sure you have '2024' on it. Don't let your membership lapse at the end of December! Let's make this another successful year for our Post! If you have any questions or ideas to help the membership drive, don't hesitate to get in touch with me. Also, reach out to your friends and neighbors if they are veterans. Tell them why you joined and share what we do for our Veterans and our community!.

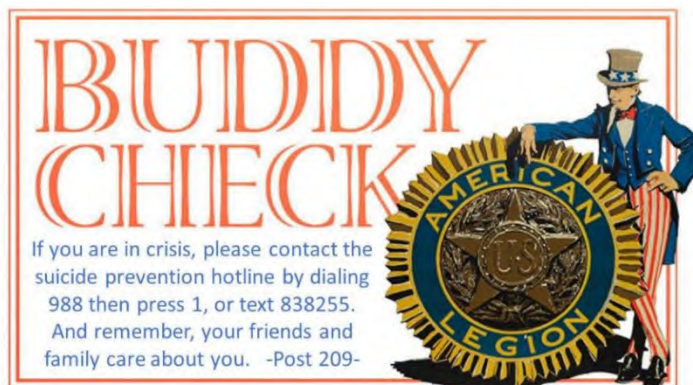
Next time you are at the Post, take a look around and see the results of a lot of hard work by member volunteers who helped get the Post ready for winter! Over Columbus Day weekend and a few follow-on days, several volunteers conducted a deep cleaning of the kitchen, improved shelving in our table storage area, replaced lighting fixtures, pressure washed and stained outside benches and tables, stained the fence, put in the final gate hardware in the South enclosure area, trimmed dead branches, repaired concrete in the back patio area, hung string lights on the back patio, and prepared the trailer for the Veteran's Day parade on 4 Nov. Thanks to Jerry, Royce, Lino, John, Dan, Kellie and Doug for all the hard work on these various projects over the last couple weeks!

Hats off to our Post family for their outstanding support of the annual Homeless Veterans stand down. This yearly event served well over 100 homeless veterans on Tuesday, 17 October. Several veterans were accepted into the follow-on Transitional Housing Initiative (THI), which will provide 30 days of housing, housing transition assistance, VA claim assistance, and employment assistance. American Legion Auxiliary is preparing three meals in the coming weeks for the THI with serving assistance from American Legion Riders, and we have several volunteers supporting the night supervisor role for the program.

Keep up ALL the great work! Thanks for everything you do to continue helping veterans and the youth in our community!

Steve Hayes

Senior Vice Commander





From our Junior Vice Commander

By now everyone should be aware what the PACT ACT is. This was a bill that became law on August 10, 2022. It expands health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits, agent orange, and other toxic substances. There has been an increase in scams by individuals claiming to be able to assist you in getting money for your encounters with these dangers. Do not give out your personal information to anyone claiming to do this. If it is by email, check that the email starts with "https://" The federal agencies will not contact you unless you have contacted them first. If you have been contacted by someone claiming to help you, get all the information from them you can and contact by phone the VA at 1-800-698-2411 or email to www.va.gov/PACT to report suspicious activity.

Gerry Hopper
Jr Vice Commander



From the desk of the Unit President

Happy November! This is my favorite time of year! The cooler weather, family and friends gathering together, and always giving to those who might need a bit of help more during the holidays than any other time.

There will be several volunteer opportunities available, please watch your email and check the Post calendar.

If you need a helping hand, please reach out! We are here for you and your family.

Happy birthday to our members celebrating their birthday this month!

Royce Hopper
Unit President
American Legion Auxiliary



From our Chaplain

How to smile in the midst of life's storms ...

Season for Attitude of Gratitude

Can you believe we are already in November? This year is flying by so fast. As we move into the holiday season, despite the chaos that our world is facing, I hope you take time to have an attitude of gratitude. When you face uncertainty, take time to focus on blessings you and your family have.

November brings us two important holidays.

First, we have Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day), where we pause as a nation to remember the end of World War I. It falls on the 11th day of the 11th month. Other countries commemorate the day as well. Veterans Day is distinct from Memorial Day in that Veterans Day honors with grateful hearts the service of all U.S. veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who have died while in military service. During Veterans Day, take time to lift your fellow Veterans up in prayer. Pray they feel honored, that they are understood, and they experience healing from trauma and wounds they may bear. With the chaos and conflicts going on in the world at present, some Veterans may be reminded of things they experienced when serving. Remember to “Be The One!” Reach out to your brothers and sisters with encouragement, empathy and be present as you feel led.

Second, Thanksgiving is modeled after the 1621 harvest feast shared between the Wampanoag people and the Pilgrims. It was a time to reflect on the safe passage that the Pilgrims had in coming to America, the bounty that was shared between the two groups of people and the blessings they experienced in their new country. We celebrate the harvest of the season of sowing and reaping (Summer/Fall) and prepare for the winter months ahead. Again, it is a time to reflect on things we can have gratitude for.

Both holidays dovetail with each other. Without the sacrifices that Veterans gave during their time in service to our nation, we would not have the freedoms that we do. Without our freedom, we would not have the bounty to share at Thanksgiving.

I challenge you to, no matter what, always face life and trials with an attitude of gratitude. Like the old saying goes, you can either look at a glass as half empty or half full. May you choose to look at it as half full all the time.

Psalm 107:8-9 (New King James Version)

*Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness,
And for His wonderful works to the children of men!
For He satisfies the longing soul,
And fills the hungry soul with goodness.*

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

Bob "Odie" O'Donnell
Chaplain Odie



First Friday Dinner Has a New Name!

Hey folks, we have changed the name of our first Friday dinner. For several years, it was called Hamdogger/Wingding Night. As requested by you, we've added/changed several things to that menu so the old name no longer identifies what we offer. So, effective this month, we are proud to announce the first Friday dinner will be the Barnyard Dinner night.

Come on out and sample the new items! **And don't forget to RSVP!**



From our Post Historian



Roger Danny Helwig, born 17 May 1943 in Trinidad, CO, spent his teen years in Colorado Springs. He entered the U.S. Air Force from Colorado and served in the 390th Tactical Fighter Squadron during the Vietnam War. When North Vietnam began to increase their military strength in South Vietnam, NVA and Viet Cong troops again intruded on neutral Laos for sanctuary, as the Viet Minh had done during the war with the French some years before. The border road, termed the "Ho Chi Minh Trail" was used for transporting weapons, supplies and troops. Hundreds of American pilots were shot down trying to stop this communist traffic to South Vietnam.

On 11 September 1969, as aircraft commander of "Stormy 02", an F-4D Phantom II, Captain Helwig and Captain Roger Stearns departed Da Nang Air Base on a visual reconnaissance and forward air control (FAC) mission over Laos. After identifying a target, "Stormy 02" made a marking rocket pass to mark the target for other aircraft in the area. While pulling up from the pass, one of the other aircraft noticed fuel coming from both of "Stormy 02's" wings, which quickly caught fire and caused the aircraft to crash about ten miles west of the Vietnam border a few miles south of the Demilitarized Zone, exploding on impact. A badly damaged parachute was seen hanging in a tree near the crash site, but there were no other signs that the Phantom's crew survived the crash. No beepers were heard and neither crew member could be located following the crash.



On May 22, 1990, the Vietnamese government, having denied knowledge of Helwig and Stearns for many years, "discovered" and returned to U.S. control the remains of Captain Roger H. Stearns. The fate of Helwig remains unclear.

Captain Helwig is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, and his name is inscribed along with all his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C.

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



Floyd K. Lindstrom was raised by his single mother at the Myron Stratton Home for the working poor in Colorado Springs. Earning the rank of Eagle Scout and graduating from Cheyenne Mountain High School in 1931, Floyd worked as a long-haul truck driver through the 1930s until America's entry into World War II. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on his 30th birthday in June 1942, and after training, was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division in North Africa. During the July 1943 Allied invasion of Sicily, Private Lindstrom saved the life of a fellow soldier under enemy fire, for which he was awarded the Silver Star.

On 11 November 1943, on the German-held slopes of Mount la Difensa south of Rome, Private First Class Lindstrom, seeing that his crew was outnumbered five to one, "...immediately deployed the few remaining men into position and opened fire with his single gun. The enemy

centered fire on him with machine gun, machine pistols, and grenades. Unable to knock out the enemy nest from his original position, PFC Lindstrom picked up his own heavy machine gun and staggered 15 yards up the barren, rocky hillside to a new position, completely ignoring enemy small-arms fire which was striking all around him...he charged uphill under a steady stream of fire, killed both gunners with his pistol, and dragged their gun down to his own men, directing them to employ it against the enemy. Disregarding heavy rifle fire, he returned to the enemy machine-gun nest for two boxes of ammunition, came back, and resumed withering fire from his own gun...which completely broke up the German counterattack. PFC Lindstrom demonstrated aggressive spirit and complete fearlessness in the face of almost certain death."



For this action he was nominated for the Medal of Honor. When offered a transfer away from the front lines while his nomination was under review, Lindstrom characteristically chose to stay with his men and advance on to Anzio, Italy. He was killed by enemy fire in the Battle of Anzio on 3 February 1944. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on 20 April 1944.

Originally buried in Italy, Lindstrom was later disinterred and reburied at Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs in 1948. Our WWII hometown hero's legacy is preserved throughout Colorado Springs. His medals are held by the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum. He is honored at Cheyenne Mountain High School, the Myron Stratton Home, Fort Carson, and the Medal of Honor Memorial. In addition, the Community Based Operations Clinic in Colorado Springs was named in his honor. And in 2019, Colorado Springs American Legion Post 5 voted to rename the Post to American Legion PFC Floyd K. Lindstrom Post 5.

Kurt Skinner
Historian





From our Color/Honor Guard Captain

The Honor Guard October schedule has been very busy, with daily Final Honors becoming a common occurrence. Additionally, the team is preparing to lead the Post by carrying the American Flag and Legion Family Banners in the Veterans Day Parade on November 4th in downtown Colorado Springs. Some of the Honor Guard members plan to attend the Naturalization Ceremony on November 7th at the Pikes Peak Library 21C in support of fellow Honor Guard member Kurt Skinner's Americanism initiative to present American Flags to the newest American citizens in Colorado Springs.

There is also the invitation for all Veterans to attend the Veteran's Day Program at The Classical Academy at 9:00am November 10th, where the Honor Guard has been requested to Present Colors. I still expect at the Pikes Peak National Cemetery Support Committee Meeting on October 17th a request to be made for our support for Wreaths Across America again at Pikes Peak National Cemetery on December 16th.

Want to be part of a great team? The Honor Guard needs to gain more new team members in order to ensure we are able to continue supporting our veterans and our community. Understandably, not everyone has much time to participate in the Honor Guard. In reality, all someone needs are a few available hours: about an hour to participate a night for a training meeting (check the newsletter calendar or the calendar on the Honor Guard website - <https://legion209.org/honorguard209/>) and up to a couple of hours for an event. So around three hours a month for a meeting and just **ONE** event is all you need to make a difference in helping support our veterans and our community. Members of The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion, and The American Legion Auxiliary are all eligible to be members of the Honor Guard with all uniform items provided except Legion family-specific cap and shoes. If you or someone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please reach out to me at: (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org.

Like and Follow "The American Legion Neal Thomas, Jr. Centennial Post 209 Honor Guard" Facebook page. The link is at the top of the Honor Guard on our Post 209 website.

Joel W. Haas
Honor Guard Captain



From our Junior Shooting Sports Team

We are currently running Fall JSSP courses; the Marksmanship Course and the Young Guns Basic Course. They will conclude Thursday November 9. The customary Awards and Pizza Party to celebrate the accomplishments of our youth shooters will be at 6:00pm on November 9th. We will be handing out Air Pistol Qualification awards for two students, a first for the Post 209 JSSP.

The Spring 2024 JSSP courses are taking applications for the Marksmanship Course starting Wednesday, February 7th (4:45pm – 6:00pm, 5:45pm – 7:00pm, or 6:56pm – 8:00pm) and Young Guns Basic Course starting Thursday, February 8th (6:15pm – 8:00pm), with a cost of \$30 per youth shooter for either course. If there is a youth interested in learning how to safely handle a firearm and basic shooting skills, they are invited to sign up for the Young Guns Basic Course. If there is a youth that has already completed Young Guns, they are invited to sign up for the Marksmanship Course. Please go to <https://legion209.org/young-guns/> to download an application, complete the application, and send it to Jesse Wade (jssp209@gmail.com) to sign up for either class. Please feel free to reach out to Jesse or myself (jwhaas.al209@gmail.com) with any questions you may have regarding the Junior Shooting Sports Program.

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

The JSSP needs your assistance to continue to provide the quality training opportunity to our local youth. Due to the loss of several instructors over the last couple of years, we need more instructors now more than ever. There are three courses required to become an instructor for the Post 209 Junior Shooting Sports Program: NRA Basic Rifle Course, NRA Basic Instructor Training (BIT) Course, and NRA Basic Rifle Instructor Course. In an effort to help reduce the costs associated with taking the courses, an NRA Basic Rifle Instructor Course has been offered a couple of times without the minimum of four students signing up. Another course will be scheduled in early January, with the date to be announced in late November/early December. An NRA BIT Course and NRA Basic Rifle Instructor Course are being worked out in coordination with a Post 209 member and local Scouting instructors, with the costs yet to be determined (though expected to be much lower than the standard costs in the area). Please feel free to contact me for more information on what an instructor's duties are for each course, the costs of becoming an instructor, or any other questions you may have about the program. If you think that you might be interested in becoming an NRA Basic Rifle Instructor, feel free to come and observe the Marksmanship and/or Young Guns Courses (see days/times below).

Like and Follow "Centennial Post 209 Young Guns Shooting Sports" Facebook page. The link is at the top of the Young Guns website: <https://legion209.org/young-guns/>

Joel W. Haas
JSSP Instructor





From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

With the chill in the air and the leaves falling, it is that time of year again. The holidays are coming. Before that is Veterans' Day. Events are going on everywhere. Try to attend at least one. A suggestion would be to try to go to a retirement home and visit the veterans who never leave their home. Go and thank them. That small gesture will make their month! Take the time to listen to their stories. Those historical stories are amazing and inspirational.

Your SAL has a program where we are replacing batteries in their smoke detectors at no cost. If you know of a veteran that is physically or financially unable, please contact us. See the flyer in this newsletter edition.

Feel free to contact me directly at Colo.rsb@yahoo.com , or 719-930-5725 with questions.

Rob Barry

Commander

Sons of The American Legion 209



Yum, Yum, Eat'em up!!

Butter Braid Sale Starting October 13th – November 11th. Delivery date will be November 16th. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than November 10th. I will call or email you with the delivery time. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$15.00 per braid. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen, (901) 481-0673 or email jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com,



with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment. Watch for reminder/update blasts to be sent. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

FLAVORS: Caramel Rolls (9 rolls), Apple, Blueberry & Cream Cheese, Cinnamon, Strawberry & Cream Cheese, Bavarian Crème Cheese, and Cherry. Also available are Gluten Free Chocolate Chip cookies.

Trailer for Sale (not Rent)

With a nod to Roger Miller, we have recently received a VERY generous donation of a 37' 5th Wheel Travel Trailer. Here's the Trailer details:

- 2013 Heartland Sundance, Model 3270RES
- This Trailer has been lived in for about a month
- Everything works!
- The tires are original and have about 100 miles on them
- Both sides and the bedroom are expandable
- Electric Fireplace that heats up the entire Trailer
- King-sized bed
- Small ding on the left rear panel; easily replaceable
- No generator
- Large bath with tub and shower
- New awning
- 5th Wheel Reese Hitch may be available (negotiable)
- **Minimum bid is \$16,000**



We will advertise this trailer and accept **sealed bids**. On Veterans' Day, 11 November we will open the bids and award the trailer to the highest bidder.

This trailer is being sold "As Is." If interested and you would like to see it, please reach out to Jerry Hopper at 918-953-9980 or jerroyreb@yahoo.com to make an appointment to see the trailer currently being housed at a private residence in Peyton, CO.

Keep in mind, we require all bids to be sealed. You can mail your bid to: The American Legion, Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917, ATTN: Jerry Hopper, or you can deliver your sealed bid to our Post.



UPCOMING EVENTS



11th ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT FUNDRAISER

**ARE YOU ABLE TO PUT THE TURKEY ON THE TABLE?
COME GIVE IT A TRY AND SUPPORT OUR YOUNG GUNS
JUNIOR SHOOTING PROGRAM**

Win your Thanksgiving turkey! You are invited to a Turkey Shoot sponsored by the Young Guns of American Legion Post 209. This event will be held at the Post immediately following our Holiday Dinner on November 17th starting promptly at 1900'ish. There will be three categories; one for youth under 18, one for ladies and one for gentlemen. For a \$5 donation, you will get 5 shots from the unsupported standing position from a distance of 25ft. The highest score in each category will win a turkey! Scoring will be governed by the rules spelled out in The American Legion Junior Shooting Guide and any tie will be resolved with a shoot off. You will shoot an air rifle used by the Junior Shooters and the event will be judged by our NRA Certified Instructors. Be sure to RSVP for that great Holiday Dinner and support our Junior Shooters by participating in our 11th annual Turkey Shoot!





**1st Place
Scholarship
\$3000**

• **December 2, 2023** •
• **9AM** •

**Golden View Classical
Academy**

601 Corporate Circle
Golden, CO 80401

For info on how to participate in the
Oratorical contest:
www.colegionoratorical.org

The Oratorical Contest presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.



SAL



SAFETY INITIATIVE

Sons of the American Legion
Squadron 209 will replace and install
smoke detector batteries at no cost for
veterans in financial need or with
physical limitations

Contact SQ 209:
Rob Barry
719-930-5725
colo.rsb@yahoo.com



Made with PosterMyWard.com



Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

HEALTH EDUCATION SESSION

➔ **FREE \$10 GIFT CARD FOR GROCERIES/GAS FOR ALL SENIORS!**



LEARN MORE

- ➔ Updates on health insurance benefits, including Medicare, Tricare, & VA healthcare
- ➔ Benefits of Veteran organizations, such as the American Legion
- ➔ How to pick the best doctor & health plan for you

WHEN: Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 1:30-3:30 pm

WHERE: American Legion Post 209
3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80917

WHO'S INVITED: All Seniors are welcome
➔ (Gift Cards will be mailed to the first 60 Seniors who RSVP and attend)

All Veterans, Spouses, Family Members and Friends also invited

WHAT: Light Refreshments Provided

HOW TO SIGN UP: RSVP prior to event - EventBrite

ORGANIZED BY: American Legion Post 209
American Legion District 7
Flagship Health



R.S.V.P. HERE

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FLAGSHIP HEALTH | www.flagshiphealth.org



Join us to **CELEBRATE** the opening of our **COLORADO SPRINGS CLINIC**.



GRAND OPENING | OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, 05 DEC 2023 | 4:00-7:00 PM

American Legion Post 209
3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80917

LEARN MORE about the comprehensive primary care and social model being built for our senior and veteran community.



**Say goodbye to healthcare complexity.
Say hello to community, camaraderie, and care.**



R.S.V.P. HERE 

WWW.FLAGSHIPHEALTH.ORG | *Creating Healthy Senior Communities | Enabling Veterans to Thrive*

FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

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



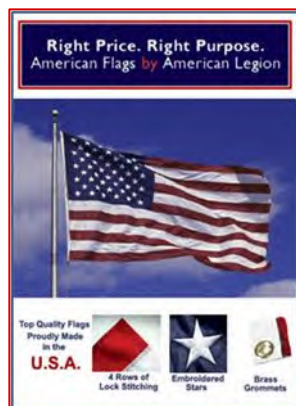
SPONSOR A U.S. FLAG TO A NEW AMERICAN CITIZEN

**for presentation at the next
Citizenship Naturalization
ceremony in Colorado Springs**



YOUR \$25 GIFT WILL PROVIDE:

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

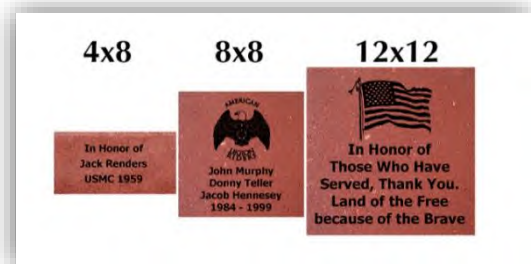


**Contact Kurt
Skinner Post 209
Americanism Chair
To Sponsor Your U.S.
Flag TODAY!
719-963-3517**

Walk of Honor



- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering desired but typically range from \$90 to \$200, depending on size.
- **What are the costs for the corporate/veteran supporter bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$250 to \$500.
- **What is the difference between individual and corporate bricks?** Individual bricks are for veterans and family members wishing to purchase a brick to honor their veterans. The corporate bricks are for our veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who want to show their continued support for our nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the brick purchase restricted to members of the Post 209 families?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves for their veteran loved ones or to show their support for our veterans.
- **Where do I go to buy a brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit legion209.org and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. In addition, you will see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How do I pay for the brick?** We have the site set up to accept payment via PayPal or check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick, and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where will the brick be shipped?** All bricks will be sent to the post. We will notify you when it arrives, and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- **What will become of my brick?** It will be placed near the flagpole at the post. If you are a landscaper or know a good one (preferably a veteran), have them contact our Adjutant.
- **How long will this fundraiser effort last?** We plan only to sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project.
- **Will I have an opportunity to buy a brick later?** Quite possibly, depending on what is decided/approved for the next phase of our project.



Order your brick(s) now to ensure you get one in Phase One of our projects. If you buy multiple bricks, let our Adjutant know, and we will ensure they are all placed together.

Celebrate

At
American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

Host your next event with us! With over 2,500 SQFT of venue space this is the perfect location for your next social event!



Rental Features:

- 6 Hour Rental
- In House Catering Available*
- Fully Stocked Bar*
- Muti-Room Sound System
- Dance Floor with Lighting

If you and your family are looking for an affordable option for a wedding, corporate event, retirement party, or any other event, we here at The American Legion Post 209 are ready to assist you in all your event planning needs.

Starting at

\$350!



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply



Bringing A Little South to the West

Country Cooking! I love Mexican and German food. Matter of fact, I also enjoy Cajun, Chinese, Japanese, and Italian food. But my favorite above all is what is now referred to as “Country Cooking.” I’ve even seen it referred to a “Soul Food.” Growing up, we just called it dinner or supper.

So, what do I mean by Country Cooking? Simple. At my grandparents’ house, it is all home-made, not ready to eat out of a frozen package. For dinner (the noon meal), or supper (the evening meal), it normally consists of Yeast Rolls (my grandmother on Mom’s side, or Maw Maw would prepare the Yeast rolls early in the morning let them sit on the counter for several hours to rise before baking), fried chicken (perfect every time), real mashed (not stirred with a mixer) potatoes (using a potato masher that looks something like an electrical sine wave on a metal frame with a wooden handle), pinto, navy, great northern, green, or baked beans, peas (either six-week or black-eyed), gravy, and sweet tea. For dessert, we’d have either cake or a pie (often with meringue). If the pie was apple, my favorite way to eat it was with a slice of American cheese (yes, cheese) melted on top and vanilla ice cream. My grandmother on my father’s side (Granny) would also make chocolate pudding. Yum!

I know it sounds like a lot of food for one sitting...and it was. But when you consider these are meals prepared and served to farmers and people who had gotten up with the sun and went to bed when the sun went down, we didn’t have to worry about food settling on your stomach.

At our house, these meals weren’t typical because for most of my formulative years, Mom and Dad both worked so there wasn’t much time to prepare meals like my grandparents had. Most of the time, we would have fried chicken, fried fish (see a trend here?) a stew or fried liver and onions (because it was cheap and the stew lasted all week). If Mom had mashed potatoes left over, the next night would include potato cakes. She would crack an egg, mix it in with the potatoes and fry them up. We rarely had hamburgers or hot dogs unless it was the 4th of July and we fired up the grill. There were no tacos or anything in a casserole dish.

Breakfast was obviously different than lunch or supper. It was always fried eggs (your choice of over easy, medium, or hard), bacon, sausage, or ham (not some of each), homemade biscuits, fresh butter, jelly, jam, or sorghum molasses, white or brown gravy (not SOS), fresh tomatoes, grits (there was only one way to eat grits in our family; lots of butter and salt), coffee and milk.

Regardless the meal or who prepared it, the rule was you ate what was on the table. We didn’t have the luxury of asking for anything not on the table. We never even considered asking for it. And the rule was you were not excused from the table until your plate was cleaned. If something was served we didn’t like, such as turnip greens or spinach, we still had to have some on the plate, even if it was just a bite or two. I discovered that with enough salt, pepper and ketchup, you could wash just about anything down.

I wasn’t hungry until I started writing this article. Now, I’m thinking about some apple pie with cheese melted on top. Don’t knock it ‘til you’ve tried it. Yum!!!!

Jay Bowen
Past Commander





Salty Dog

USS Constitution:

USS Constitution, also known as **Old Ironsides**, is a [three-masted](#) wooden-hulled heavy [frigate](#) of the [United States Navy](#). She is the world's [oldest](#) commissioned naval warship still afloat. One of the six original warships authorized by the 'Act to provide a Naval Armament,' signed by President George Washington March 27, 1794, which created the new United States Navy. She is homeported in Boston, Massachusetts.



Marvin Weaver, Jr.

Post 209 Commander



PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Young Guns



NRA-Accredited members of Sons of The American Legion are sponsors and instructors for the Young Guns program. This basic rifle safety and marksmanship course are offered to boys and girls ages 10-18. Shooting is indoors, using air rifles.

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>

Scouting Programs

The Post 209 family is the charter partner with the following Boy Scouts of America (BSA) units:



- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls): p24@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 77 (Girls): t77@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 79 (Boys): t79@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 187 (Boys): t187@legion209.org
- Venture Crew 762 (Young men and women ages 14-20): c762@legion209.org

Boys and Girls State



Boys State and Girls State are for high school juniors going into their senior year with at least one semester left.

- BOYS STATE www.colegionboysstate.org/
- GIRLS STATE <http://alacolorado.com/girls-state.html>

Oratorical Contest



This Nationwide contest is designed to develop a more profound knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.

www.colegionoratorical.org

Eagle Scout of the Year



The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year nomination window is from **1 November to 1 March**. Nomination packets must be received by each applicant's respective The American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than 1 March.

<https://legion209.org/Scouting/>

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: The Auxiliary will not host the 4th Friday Dinner this month.			1 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	2 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm Ex. Cmte Meeting 6:00pm  	3 Price Depends on Menu Barnyard Dinner Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	4 Veterans' Day Parade!
5 Daylight Saving Ends	6 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	7 Election Day	8 Marksmanship 4:45/5:45/6:56pm 	9 Young Guns 6:15pm Venture Crew 7:00pm  	10 Marine Corps. B'day! SAL Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	11 Happy Veterans' Day! Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
12	13 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	14 Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm 	15	16 Venture Crew 7:00pm 	17 \$17/Person Holiday Dinner! 6:00pm RSVP Required!  Turkey Shoot!	18
19	20 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	21 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving!	24	25 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
26 Decorating the Post For the Fall! 11:00am	27 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	28 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	29	30 Venture Crew 7:00pm 	Notes:	

DECEMBER 2023

For the most current version see:
https://www.legion209.org/coming_up/

December 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2  Department Oratorical Contest; Goldenview Classical Academy
3	4 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	5 Flagship Health Open House! 4:00pm-7:00pm Post 209	6	7 Executive Cmtee Meeting 6:00pm  Naturalization Ceremony 11:30am 21C Library Venture Crew 7:00pm	8	9 Potluck Post 209 Christmas Party! 4:00pm  
10	11 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	12 Honor Gd. Trng 	13 Navy B'day (original!)  Venture Crew 7:00pm	14  Venture Crew 7:00pm	15	16 Wreaths Across America! 10:00am
17	18 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	19	20 Space Force B'day!	21 Start of Winter  Venture Crew 7:00pm	22	23 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
24	25 Christmas	26 SAL Monthly Mtng 5:30pm 	27	28  Venture Crew 7:00pm	29	30
31	Notes: There will be no Friday night dinners in December to allow our great staff of volunteers time to spend with family.					