

The Centennial



VOLUME 30 EDITION 2

February 2015

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

The New Year is upon us. I am looking forward to attending the Mid Year Conference and sharing with others ideas and thoughts for the 2015 year. In looking at the agenda, the Department and others are focused on helping veterans obtain services and help legionnaires learn how to help veterans. What a great duty for the coming months.

With the end of January and Mid Year Conference past, my view for the next month is to get us together and explore things to help the Centennial Post continue its mission, care for veterans, and create teams to ready us for the Department Convention. Over the next few weeks, Committee Chairs will be reaching out to many of you to help develop ideas and actions for the upcoming Department Convention. The Convention will be at the Elegante Hotel June 25-28, 2015. I am hoping that each of you has an opportunity to attend the Convention sessions and meetings. The registration cost to you is nothing. You will only be responsible for your food and banquet cost. I hope to see as many of you there as possible. The Convention is in our backyard and we are the host post to demonstrate to other legionnaires what the Colorado Springs area is doing for veterans and their families. Please get involved. Volunteer and attend!!

In February, there will be an opportunity for all of the chairs, committees and volunteers to get together so as to discuss our plans for the upcoming Convention plans and activities. I am requesting that if you have ideas, thoughts, and resources, please attend the meeting. There were several committees identified and many of you have signed up. Please make sure you help us so we can help veterans.

One item that is weighing heavy on my heart is the success of the Centennial Post and our ability to continue with helping veterans and having a post to call home. With this said, I have spoke with many members in the post and we are in need of developing an annual plan to help generate revenue for the post. Each month, we have expenses, just like owning a home, and we need to have funding to continue with our scheduled events.



Over the years, we as a post have been creative in using the funds from memberships and renewals. Out of the annual membership dues (from one legionnaire, SAL, ALR, or auxiliary), we only keep \$6.00 a year to help keep things functioning in the Centennial Post. That is quite a feat for the Executive Committee. We as a post are doing more and more in helping veterans and their families; getting more involved in community events; and becoming a greater voice in the Colorado Springs communities. Our funding needs to increase to help balance the things within the Centennial Post.

Please watch for new ideas and events in the future at the post. If you want to help, get involved, share resources and expertise, and donate where possible. To help with this, we have made it convenient to donate to the Centennial Post...Use our PayPal on our website. Send funds through the US mail service. Drop off funds when you have the chance to attend one of our Friday night dinners. If you have ideas, please reach out to one of our current officers. Thank you for your assistance.

Over the holiday, I saw many veterans and their families in need. I was so proud that the Centennial Post and its members found ways to help them to include holiday food baskets, gifts for veterans, kind words and shared time together, and attendance to post events offering comradeship, family time, and sharing of what we do as a post.

Membership and belonging is how we teach others about the American Legion. Membership and renewed membership at the Centennial Post 209 is that and more. It is a time for us as Legionnaires to demonstrate our passion to help veterans and their families, share time together, and provide services to those needing help. We are exceeding all of the membership challenges from the Department. We need to continue share what we do and ask other veterans to become members. Please take time and tell others about the American Legion Centennial Post 209. If a post officer or I can help, let us know. Our phone numbers are in the monthly newsletter. Call us today and we will be available to help recruit a veteran to the post. I need each of you to talk with one veteran a week and ask them to be part of our organization so we can continue achieving our goal...helping veterans.



Motorcycle Minute Andrew Gilbert ALR President Post 209

Let me start with Happy Valentine. I want to set the right tone for this month.

I want to thank all of the great spouses and lovers who support the American Legion Riders. There are so many ways that our loves support us. Some riders and spouses ride every time that there is an event. This close support is evident when riders walk in at stops hand in hand. Sharing that experience that can truly grow their relationship.

There is always the solitary rider. Every time someone roles up, there are no visible signs of support. I fit into this category. Although my wife does not spend a lot of time with us, she always contributes encouragement. She will never get on a bike but she has always supported me in all motorcycle events. For this I feel great. It also gives her time to do what she needs to do. Give your valentine a big hug and let the love flow.

As I missed putting out an article last month, I apologize and want to update you on a few things. Although we are under a year old, we have been a successful organization who contributed our time, talents and treasures. We have improved the lives of many people by supporting many events and individuals. It is your continued support that makes this entirely possible. We do this in many ways. Whether your support is through cleaning Legion bathrooms, kitchen support, donations of food and money, or supporting on of our American legion family programs. These combined efforts keep the post alive and vibrant. While conducting business in my ALR vest, I was approached by several community members and thanked for our contributions to the community. These are people that I did not know but were in one way or another touched by our contributions. I was truly amazed.

I was asked why we seem to be the post that people come for support. That answer was easy. It is because we care. We have worked hard to fill the gap where help is needed. Your support has been instrumental in making us a world class American legion post. Thank you.

As with any great organization, we must set our goals for next year. Let's all focus on bringing 2 new riders into the organization. Again, people we would like to spend time with. Remember to welcome spouses into AL, SAL, and aux at the same time. As our family grows, we have the capability to serve more veterans in need.

My mom told me many hand make light work. Maybe that's why she had 10 boys and a girl. And yes boy can she cook.

How to Sell The American Legion

Selling The American Legion should be pretty easy. Veterans served not for the money, but for a higher cause. We need to just let them know The American Legion also serves the same higher cause. When talking to another Veteran, I recommend you tell them:

We Believe in God and Country!

We Believe in Americanism!

We Believe in Taking Care of our Youth!

We Believe in Taking Care of Veterans!

We Believe in a Strong National Defense!

} The 4 Pillars of The American Legion

If This is Something You Also Believe in...You Need to Belong to The American Legion!

It's just that simple. Most people want to be associated with organizations that share their belief system. Spread the news!

Junior Vice Commander

Eric Testorff

Happy 80th Birthday to a Memphis Boy Done Good

Our buddy Neal Thomas liked music from Elvis Presley. But not all of Elvis' fans knew what Neal knew: that The King wore the uniform, too.

Elvis Aron Presley entered the United States Army at Memphis, Tennessee, on March 24, 1958, and then spent three days at the Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, Reception Station. He left active duty at Fort Dix, New Jersey, on March 5, 1960, and received his discharge from the Army Reserve on March 23, 1964.

During his active military career Mr. Presley served as a member of two different armor battalions. Between March 28 and September 17, 1958, he belonged to Company A, 2d Medium Tank Battalion, 37th Armor, stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. During this assignment he completed basic and advanced military training.

Mr. Presley's overseas service took place in Germany from October 1, 1958, until March 2, 1960, as a member of the 1st Medium Tank Battalion, 32d Armor. For the first five days of that period he belonged to Company D of the battalion, and thereafter to the battalion's Headquarters Company at Friedberg.

While in Germany, Mr. Presley wore the shoulder sleeve insignia of the 3d Armored Division.

Happy 80th Birthday to The King: Memphis Army Boy Done Good.



CHAPLAIN NEWS

January 2015

THE FOUR CHAPLAINS

On the evening of February 3, 1943, the USAT Dorchester was crowded to capacity carrying 902 U.S. troops, merchant seamen and civilian workers. Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649 ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy was moving steadily across the icy waters from New Foundland toward a US base in Greenland. The Dorchester was only 150 miles from its destination, but the captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing to keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ships hold disregarded the order, because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were very uncomfortable. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard U-223 spotted the Dorchester and ordered to fire a fan of three torpedoes. The one that hit was and deadly, striking the starboard side, in the center, far below the water line. The Dorchester was sinking fast. They had only 20 minutes before the ship would be beneath the Atlantic icy waters. Two protestant ministers, one Roman Catholic and one Jewish Rabbi assisted the men to go to the life boats and passed out life jackets. When they ran out of life jackets, they then removed their own and gave them to the men. As the life boats rowed away, the men on the life boats could see the chaplain's clinging to each other and linked their hands together and singing hymns and supplication to the men as the ship sank with 700 of the 900 troopers. These four men symbolized for the nation the sacrifice the war required, when citizens of different backgrounds, of nonmilitary profession, become soldiers and sacrificed their lives, so that others may live. In 1960 Congress posthumously awarded them a special medal: the four chaplain's medal.

My last three words are: GO TO CHURCH!

Shalom, Pastor Stan

Remembering a Mentor

Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

I just walked in the door the evening of 13 January to a ringing phone. The caller ID (yes, I screen calls) indicated the call originated from S. Carolina. No name, just S. Carolina. I let it go to voice mail and heard a voice identify herself as the daughter of Mary and Willie Burnside. Jackie immediately intercepted the call. It was news we were expecting but never wanted to hear; Willie passed away.

It is doubtful anyone reading this article knew Willie. He was the Section Chief of my first permanent duty assignment in Germany in January 1972. At that time, Willie was an OLD Sergeant First Class (E-7) and I was a very young Spec. 4 (E-4) fresh out of Missile maintenance school. Germany in January 1972 was COLD! I arrived to the Missile site at Kirch Goens, A.K.A. "The Rock," was introduced to the maintenance team, and the mentoring began. SFC Burnside knew more about Missiles, Launchers, ancillary equipment, and life than just about anyone I had met. He was patient, understanding, and maintained high expectations of everyone working for him, including himself. In the couple of years we served together, he taught me many things, but I still remember vividly three lessons that I still hold onto today and have repeated to many. The first one was in January when a few Launcher operators came into the maintenance shop and said the Launcher was not pointing in the right direction. SFC Burnside looked at me and asked, "Bowen, what do you know about synchros?" I said, "Nothing." He said, "Good. Get the manual, and go fix that Launcher." I grabbed the manual and followed the operators outside in the wintry weather. About 3 minutes later I returned. SFC Burnside asked, "Did you get it fixed?" I said, "No, it's cold!" He looked at me pretty sternly and replied, "Bowen, get you're a\$\$ out there and don't come back in until the Launcher is fixed! Will the Russians attack only in warm weather?" It's amazing how quickly you learn things when your fingers and face go numb from the cold.

The second lesson I received from SFC Burnside was when we were getting ready for an IG (Inspector General) inspection. This is a time when you not only ensure all your required paperwork is up to standards, but all the buildings are clean and looking sharp as well. We had a small bathroom in the maintenance building with a ceiling about 12' high. SFC Burnside gave me a couple of quarts of paint and told me to paint the bathroom in preparation for the IG. I told him there was no way this could paint that entire bathroom. He replied, "You don't need to paint the walls all the way to the ceiling. An inspector will only look at eye level and down, not up. Just paint from about 6' high down." I was somewhat reluctant to do so, but a Spec. 4 doesn't argue with a SFC, so I did as I was told. On the day of the inspection, I watched in amazement the IG inspect our Latrine. He walked in, looked around, took a lot of time looking at the floors, corners, sink and commode. He NEVER looked up. Wow! Another lesson learned.

The life lesson that has guided me the most was our first Missile firing at Crete. This was a NATO evaluation that actually began in our Maintenance building in Germany. The evaluator was dispatched to watch us prepare the Missile for shipment to Crete. We brought it into the Maintenance building, set it on a long stand, and connected hydraulic and test cables from the radome at the tip to the elevons in the tail section. The test shop was about the size of a Suburban SUV. There were about 75 steps that tested the Missile, simulating launch, flight and destruction. Once we proved it was operational, we were evaluated taking the Missile apart, loading it in the container, and shipping it. When we arrived at the Greek Island, we were once again met by the evaluator who watched us "de-can" the Missile, put it on a stand, check it once again, and stage it for loading onto the Launcher. There are more procedures, processes, and steps to doing all of that than I can recount. To score well in this portion of the evaluation is not an easy task. But, on Wednesday afternoon after a very successful firing, we discovered our part of the evaluation was flawless. We made a perfect score. This was the first and best evaluation of my 20 year career. Another part of the evaluation

involved the operators getting the Radars and Launchers ready for firing. They also did a good job, and our Unit's overall rating was a 98.25% out of 100%. This meant we were an "Honor Battery" because we scored better than 95%. At the out-brief and subsequent celebration, the Commander lauded the efforts of the operators, and in passing gave us credit for doing our part. I was furious and hurt that our efforts were passed over and obviously not appreciated. SFC Burnside pulled me off to the side and in his fatherly tone said, "Bowen, if you can't be satisfied knowing you did your job and did it well, and if you need recognition by others, you're in the wrong profession. You did what was expected and exceeded the expectations. You know you did good. Why do you need someone to tell you that?" I've never forgotten that message, and it has served me well these past 40+ years.

When SFC Burnside left Germany, he retired and moved to Clinton, SC. We stayed connected via letters and Christmas cards every year. The card was always the same; "Hello Jackie and Bowen..." Willie never called me Jay, but he always remembered me, which was evident by the notes in the Christmas cards and letters. I'm not certain what he saw in a young Spec. 4 that endeared him to me, but I feel extremely blessed that he did. Willie was one of only a VERY few mentors in my life. I thank God that he put Willie in my life and grateful that SFC Burnside took the time to try and teach me military and life lessons. I miss him dearly. If you have a mentor who is still living, contact them today and say thanks. Often, they don't realize the impact they had in your life. I doubt Willie ever knew, and I regret I never told him.



YOUNG GUNS

The Young Guns of Centennial Post 209 would like to recognize individuals and companies who donate to our Junior Shooting program. Donors will be given a frameable certificate in recognition of their donation and have their name and the year placed on the Patriot Award plaque that is permanently displayed at the Post. The donation levels are listed below.

BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	PLATINUM
\$50	\$100	\$250	\$500 +

We would like to extend our thanks to those who have already donated, The Friends of NRA, Sportsmans Warehouse and Mr. Clyde Womer.



2015 Membership Drive **Lino Calica**

Membership Target Dates

Just a reminder that Centennial Post 209 is having our 2015 Membership Drive. The Department Goal for Centennial Post 209 is 965 for FY 2015. Currently, our membership is at 826 (unofficial count) members, which is 85% of our calendar year goal. We need to exceed our goal of 965 members. I have included the American Legion Department of Colorado Membership Target Dates below.

50%	September 10, 2014
55%	October 8, 2014
65%	November 14, 2014
75%	December 10, 2014
80%	January 21, 2015
85%	February 11, 2015
90%	March 11, 2015
95%	April 8, 2015
100%	May 13, 2015

If you haven't renewed your 2015 membership, I am asking you to reconsider your decision and re-new your membership. It is only \$35.00 a year. Please take a moment to write out a check or money order made out to American Legion Post 209, and mail to American Legion Post 209, P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, CO 80936.

Bringing a Little South to the West

Immediate Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

Aw, February, the month of love! The biggest month of the year for Hallmark, American Greetings, and other card companies. They dedicate entire warehouses to Valentine's Day cards. I've seen it at the American Greetings factory in Osceola, AR. It is huge! How many different ways can you say, "Be My Valentine," or "I Love You?" If you want to know, go to Osceola.

I am of the opinion about greeting cards as a buddy of mine from back home. Duane is the epitome of rednecks. Drives a pick-up with a gun rack mounted in the back of the cab. There always seems to be a shotgun or two in the rack, even when there's nothing in season. He raises Bull Dogs, so there's always a yard full of dogs and the mess they leave behind. It's almost like walking through a mine field going to his front porch. Anyway, like me Duane thinks greeting cards are a rip-off. Unfortunately for him, Duane's wife doesn't necessarily agree with that assessment. But one year he found what I think is a great compromise (again, I doubt his wife agrees). They were walking through Walmart a few years ago on Valentine's Day because that's what many married people do in the South on a night out. As they passed the greeting card section, Duane stopped in the middle of the aisle selling Valentine's Day cards and looked intently at one in particular. He reached and pulled it off the shelf, handed it to his wife who was standing next to him and said, "Here honey, read this and put it back on the shelf. Happy Valentine's Day!" Then he headed to the Sporting Goods area to check out the latest in fishing equipment and gun accessories. Now before you bleeding hearts get upset, he did make it up to her. After they left Walmart he took his lovely bride to the Catfish Cabin for a nice romantic dinner. He doesn't believe in making his wife cook on Valentine's Day.

I celebrated my 43rd Wedding Anniversary to Jackie in January. The secret to staying with Jackie that long is to NOT do what Duane did. I learned my lesson, and we have compromised on several things. For example, she likes cards so I get her one on our Anniversary, her Birthday, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, and Christmas. That's the compromise. I used to get her a Valentine's Day present every year, but she finally got tired of electric hedge trimmers and weed eaters so she asked me to just get the card and take her out to dinner. That was a compromise.

Most people from the South are chastised for their lack of romanticism and sense. That's because people don't get it. Folks like Duane save money by not buying the card. He made up for it by taking his wife to dinner. He hunts and fishes and brings home great food for her to cook, such as Duck, Venison, Fish, and Squirrel. That's less time for her to spend in the Grocery Store. It's obvious he has her best interest in mind. Before I bought Jackie the weed eater and hedge trimmer, she was using shears and a shovel to keep the bushes and grass trimmed. Getting those saved her time and energy, which she was able to use toward fixing dinner and cleaning the house. If that's not a true show of love, I guess I don't get it.

For us and many other good ole boys from the South, every day is like Valentine's Day, only without the cards. We call our significant others Darlin', or Honey, or Baby, not just on 14 February, but year 'round. I can't remember the last time I called Jackie by her name. I have called her other names, but that's for another article. We don't need a special day or card to show how much we care. It's how we roll in the South!

Happy Valentine's Day y'all!



Post Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Stan Hamamoto	719-322-6959
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Rob Johnson	719-421-9201
Post Executive Committeeman	Jay Bowen	901-484-7193
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610



Auxiliary Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-3193
Vice President	Theresa Wiederspahn	719-360-1064
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Chaplain	Joan Ciani	719-579-9194
Sergeant-At-Arms	Becky Hall	719-231-0597
Historian	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763



Sons of The American Legion 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
1st Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Chaplain	Christopher Keith	719-382-7845
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Secretary	John Duenas	719-291-9733
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Mike Barger	719-290-3218



Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events



5 Mar	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
6 Mar	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
7 Mar	Biker Ball Post 38 (ALR)
13 Mar	ALR Pasta Dinner, Be a supporter of ALR - RSVP REQUIRED
14 Mar	General membership Breakfast 9:00am Legion/Auxiliary 10am
20 Mar	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
24 Mar	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social, 6:30 meeting) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)
27 Mar	Fish Fry 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
2 Apr	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
3 Apr	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
10 Apr	ALR Pasta Dinner Be a supporter of ALR - RSVP REQUIRED
11 Apr	General membership Breakfast 9:00am Legion/Auxiliary 10am Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
17 Apr	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
19 Apr	ALR scheduled ride-- Franktown
24 Apr	Fish Fry 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
28 Apr	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social, 6:30 meeting) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)
1 May	Hamdogger
7 May	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
8 May	ALR ??? Dinner
9 May	General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10am
15 May	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
22 May	Fish Fry 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
26 May	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social, 6:30 meeting) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)
4 June	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
5 June	Hamdogger
12 June	ALR ??? Dinner
13 June	General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10am
14 June	FLAG DAY!!! Flag Retirement Ceremony
19 June	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
23 June	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social, 6:30 meeting) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)
25-28 June	Department Convention Elegante Hotel



THE AMERICAN LEGION
CENTENNIAL POST 209
P.O. BOX 25334
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80936-5334

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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COLORADO SPGS, CO
PERMIT NO. 192

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

~ February 2015 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Superbowl Party 3:00 pm \$7.50 AYCE Game Starts at 4:30	2	3	4	5 Executive Meeting 1830 hrs. 	6 Hamdogger 6 pm	7 RV Show CS Center Honor Guard Colors at '10 am
8	9	10	11 Young Guns 1830 hrs 	12	13 ALR Dinner 6 pm RSVP encouraged 	14 General Meeting Breakfast 9:00am Meeting Legion/Aux 
15	16 ALR Executive 1800 hrs	17	18 Young Guns 1830 hrs 	19	20 Steak Night 6 pm RSVP Required	21
22	23	24 ALR Monthly Meeting 1830 hrs. Social 1730 SAL Squadron 209 1800  	25 Young Guns 1830 hrs 	26	27 Fish Fry Night 6pm RSVP Required	28
1	2	3	4 Young Guns 1830 hrs 	5	6	7 Biker's Ball Post 38 McCandless Fund

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or Kariann Smith (520-784-3193) kariannsmith@me.com