

# The Centennial



VOLUME 51 EDITION 2

February 2017

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## From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Mike Barger

As always, I'd like to start off by acknowledging all those that have stepped up this last month and volunteered their time to the Post. That includes people from the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders. A big thank you from myself and the executive board goes out to you all. Also, thanks to those that stepped up and helped out during the DMS event that was held 2/3 - 2/5.

The American Legion has set aside February as Americanism Month to highlight one of the four great pillars on which our organization was founded. The characteristic that distinguishes our form of government from others is the recognition of the truth that the inherent and fundamental rights of men are derived from God and not from governments, dictators, or majorities. The unalienable rights, which are the gifts of man from his Creator are: freedom of worship; freedom of speech and press; freedom of assemblage; freedom to work in such occupation as the experience, training and qualifications of man may enable him to secure and hold; freedom to enjoy the fruits of his work, which means the protection of property rights; and the right to pursue his happiness so long as he does not harm others in the pursuit of this happiness. Upon these basic principles, the structure of our form of government was established.

President Theodore Roosevelt wrote: "Americanism means the virtues of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity, and hardihood—the virtues that made America. The things that will destroy America are prosperity-at-any-price, peace at-any-price, safety-first instead of duty-first, the love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life." From its inception, The American Legion recognized that the virtues of which Roosevelt spoke must be passed on to future generations, if America was to survive as the greatest country on earth. Early Legionnaires believed this so strongly that when they set up temporary headquarters in New York City in 1919, in addition to Legion relief and employment programs, they founded the American Legion Americanism Program. Americanism programs are high visibility programs like American Legion Baseball, High School Oratorical, Boys State, Boys Nation, Boy Scouts and Youth Shooting.

26 years ago, February 28th, 1991, marked the end of Operation Desert Storm. My sincere thanks and gratitude goes out to those who served during this time and condolences to those that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

I hope that everyone that attended Mid-year conference in Denver had a good time. A lot of information and training was shared.

Congratulations goes out to the newly elected board members of the American Legion Riders. Bob Caddell - President, Steve Hayes - Vice President, Cathy Barger - Secretary, Rusty Bower - Treasurer, Grady Mitchell - Road Captain and Tim McDowell - Sergeant of Arms.

Just a reminder, that the Post will be holding a fundraiser Dinner/Comedy show on 2/24 to help raise money for the Post. This is open to everyone, so feel free to invite your friends. You do need to RSVP, so we know how much food to prepare. The cost is \$20, and it will be an enchilada dinner. Dinner begins at 6:00pm and the show follows at 7:00pm or a little later. We're looking to do at least one fundraiser dinner a quarter, so if you have any ideas on what you'd like to see done that would benefit the Post in \$\$\$, please bring them forward. We're always looking for new ideas.

(continued on page 2)



## From the Desk and Mind of The Commander

(Continued from Page 1)

Also, remember we're offering to not only Veterans, but non-Veterans the ability to get a discount dental/vision plan. You can send them to our website and click the Ameriplan link at the bottom right hand corner to learn more about it and sign up. Everyone we get signed up, the Post will get a portion of their membership dues as a profit to us.

April is just a few short months away, and that means elections of officers is coming up. If you're interested in running for a position, please contact Adjutant Marvin Weaver Jr. to let him know what position you'd like to run for. All positions are available.



## From the Unit 209 President

Cathy Barger

Wow, February is already upon us. If you want to help, get involved, share resources and expertise please let me know. On the February 24<sup>th</sup>, the Post will be hosting a Dinner/Comedy Show for \$20.00 Dinner will be at 6pm and the show will be at 7pm, so please plan on attending. Make sure to RSVP for this.

The second Friday of February the Auxiliary will be hosting the Friday night dinner as the "Auxiliary Choice Dinner." The meal is Lasagna, and the cost will still be \$9.00. Come out and support the Auxiliary. Please make sure to RSVP for this dinner. We'll be having our regular monthly meeting February 11<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for a great breakfast and stay for the meeting at 10 a.m.

Our Post 209 will be hosting the ALR Bikers Ball on March 4, 2017. The riders will be looking for volunteers. In April Auxiliary will be hosting Jay Bowen's and Evelyn Espinola's Homecomings.

If you can volunteer for any dinners or breakfasts please contact me via email [catbarger@comcast.net](mailto:catbarger@comcast.net) or by phone (719) 290-3163. If you can't carry the trays to the tables maybe you could help with the dishes, sweeping, or washing off the tables. Your support would also be appreciated by attending these events.

We're close to making our goal on membership for the year, but still have more to do to reach it. If you haven't already renewed for 2017, please send in your check for \$30.

We're still looking for recipes for our Auxiliary Cookbook. To date we have around 58 recipes in hand, but we would like to have around 200 for the Cookbook. We need more appetizers and main dish recipes. Please send in your recipes to Kellie Hayes at [hayeskelliej@yahoo.com](mailto:hayeskelliej@yahoo.com).

We would like to wish the following ladies a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**: Erica Billiard, Joanne Bramble, Shirley Chapman, Karen Cross, Hannah Dreher, Heidi Dreher, Holly Dreher, Bonnie Lloyd, Luella Nell, Donna Ribisi, Dawn Schubert. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!



## From the Adjutant

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

We are doing well with membership this year but we still need about 150 more members (renewals and new) to reach our goal. If you have a friend that is not a member yet talk with them and see about getting them signed up. Most people when asked why they have not joined simply state that they have never been asked. Department still has the recruiting drive going that for every new member you recruit you and the new member are entered into a drawing for \$100 to be drawn on the membership target dates.

We have a new fundraising initiative in which you should have heard about by now. We joined with Ameriplan to offer a discounted Dental plan. If you still have questions about the program, look on the website front page on the left side bottom. We have links to our site with Ameriplan that will give you more information.

The Annual Report is submitted each year in May to tell our story and let National know what we have done for the past year. This report to Congress is compiled from across the American legion to showcase our volunteerism for our Veterans and Children. Please send me the hours, mileage and money you have volunteered for

# Neal Thomas, Jr. Centennial Post 209



**DINNER &  
COMEDY SHOWCASE SHOW**



WITH  
**Pam & Otis**  
RATED "F" for FAMILY



**HEADLINER:**

**The Comedy Magic Of:**

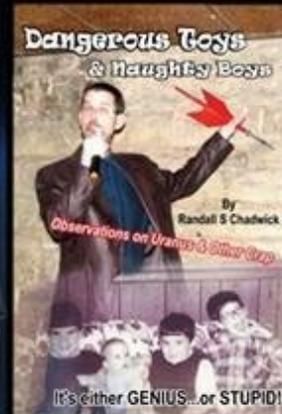


**Rodrigo Navarro**

**Featuring**



**WITH  
Author/Comic**



**Randall Chadwick**

**February 24, 2017**

3613 Jeannine Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO

[www.facebook.com/PuebloPfunny](http://www.facebook.com/PuebloPfunny)

**Tickets for Members  
and their Guests:**

**Dinner (6 PM) - \$10**

**Show (7 PM) - \$10**



**From the Jr. Vice Commander**  
Bob Caddell

**Black History Month**  
**Black soldiers in WW1 (92nd & 93rd Divisions)**

Aaron R. Fisher, **Distinguished Service Cross**  
Indiana War Memorial documentation:

Aaron R. Fisher of Lyles, Indiana, enlisted in the US Army in 1911 and had risen to the rank of Sergeant before leaving for Europe on June 15, 1918. Shortly after arriving in France, Fisher was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the 366th Infantry Regiment of the 92nd Division. The 92nd then entered the French lines near Lesseaux.

On September 3, Fisher displayed exceptional bravery in action when his position was attacked by a much larger German force. Despite being severely wounded in the initial onslaught, he refused to abandon his post, ordering his men to stand and fight. Although it appeared that they would quickly be overwhelmed, Fisher's men fought on against impossible odds until an Allied counterattack drove off the enemy.

Fisher was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for what US Army called his "extraordinary heroism in action." Furthermore, since Fisher's brave stand was made in support of America's French allies, the French bestowed upon him the Croix de Guerre, acknowledging him as "an officer of admirable courage."

**Eugene Bullitt Cheatham, US Calvary, 1st Lt.**, Marion County, Indiana  
Served 14 months in the ninth US Calvary, 1893 –1894

"I am both White and Colored."

"Occupied front-line trenches with my Regiment – 372nd Infantry from June 5 to and including the 10th of September, 1918 in Argonne Forest and the Verdun sector, France. Was Judge Advocate of 372nd Infantry from June to September, 1918. Relieved from 372nd Infantry and assigned to Requisitions and Claims Service, September, 1918. Remained in service until sent back to United States and attached to Motor Battalion, 312th Ammunition Train, 87th Division, February, 1919. Attached to and did duty with Demobilization Group, Camp Upton, New York from March 14, 1919 to July 21, 1919."

Reprinted from Black Veterans of WW1.com

While I was researching WW1 I found this web site. These are just two of the many men that served with honor. I have always known the sacrifice of all of our Veterans and how they were treated.

During this Presidential election while watching the evening news broadcast, to see people disrespecting the flag really hurt me to my soul. Yes, we as Americans have the First Amendment right to do so, and I served to protect that right, but instead of burning and other desecrating acts to our national symbol make the effort to get involved *peacefully*. We all know of the peaceful protest by Gandhi and Martin Luther King and how they moved a nation.

When people disrespect our Flag, especially when a coffin is draped under one, we as Veterans understand that there is no color; other than red that is in that space and that no matter what the race, this Veteran has paid the ultimate sacrifice, we cherish and honor the Veteran with our country's Flag.



**From the Finance Officer**  
Rusty Bower

I'm not sure if anyone has noticed that we have changed out our ATM. The new Service Provider has the ATM programmed to dispense \$10 dollar bills and hidden amongst all the \$10 bills there are two or three \$20 bills. Sergeant "Ski" has already been lucky enough to find this out when he made a withdrawal from the ATM shortly after it was installed. GOOD LUCK!



# **DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE FROM THE VA?**



**Help has Arrived**

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

**Where?** Centennial Post 209 at 3613 Jeannine Drive.

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

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

## **FAQ:**

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

No. We Will Offer Assistance to Any Qualified Veteran.

**Do I need an Appointment?**

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

**What Do I Bring?**

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



**Tell your Veteran Friends and Neighbors!**





## Junior Shooting Sports Update

Ken Taylor, Chairman



The next Junior Shooting class begins on February 8, 2017 at 6:30pm. We have 12 openings in each class and the February, 2017, class has eight students registered. NRA Marksmanship will begin on February 15, 2017 at 5:00pm.

If you need information or want to register, please contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or send an email to [jssp209@gmail.com](mailto:jssp209@gmail.com).

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



## Motorcycle Minute

Andy Gilbert, President

This is my last Motorcycle Minute as President. It is with great joy that I decided to pass the torch to your next choice for President. When we started American Legion Riders Post 209, I envisioned an organization that would ride now and then and raise a few dollars. This was an understatement. I believe that we have given almost \$900,000.00 and countless hours and 50-60 thousand miles to benefit the community this last year. I am so proud of every one of you.

We have restored peoples' lives who would be homeless or even worse, dead from homelessness in the cold. Assisted in jobs, homes and food. Assisting many who just needed a hand up from a fellow Veteran. We have fed the poor. Helped those who needed car assistance. We've supported all American Legion programs. We have honored our dead and many other Veterans that we did not even know.

We have been supported by those who know that we do well for the community. Whether it means donating material for a wheel chair ramp or allowing us to watch the rodeo and earn funds for the riders at the same time, it's all helpful. Whether it is letting Veterans in their last days know that they are not forgotten at McCandless or Children's Christmas Party, the joy is spread.

I am extremely proud of everyone in our organization. With joyful hearts, you have given of your time, talents and treasure. I am forever thankful. As I was talking to Jay Bowen, he mentioned BPOTS (Be Part of The Solution). If you don't, you're part of the problem. I want to thank you for being part of the solution and success.

On a joyful note, my wife and I went Christmas shopping for Toys for Tots. We mentioned that I was one of those bikers in jest. This young man only knew us bikers as people who give toys to the underprivileged. There was a time when bikers were feared for being bad people. We are changing that perception.

I believe that I have done all that I can for this organization. Fresh blood in this position will take us to an even higher level. Wouldn't it be great to see this organization grow further and benefit others even more. Thank you for allowing me to be honored as President. This truly the greatest honor I could have served.

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

## Origin of NAVY Terminology

Rusty Bower



### Jack of the Dust:

**Jack of the Dust** is an obsolete enlisted rating of the United States Navy and was used in the Navy Supply Corps. The term has its origin in the Royal Navy of the early 1800s when ship's stewards were known as "Jack-in-the-dust," referring to the dusty atmosphere created by issuing quantities of flour and dried biscuits. The US Naval rating was discontinued in the late 19th century, but the term survived as a formal title until World War II. "**Jack of the Dust**" is still used today on some ships as an informal title for a culinary specialist (cook) in charge of the canned goods storeroom. Since the function of getting enough goods out of the storeroom for the day's meals doesn't take that long they have also earned the nickname from the Ship's Crew as "**Jerk of the Dirt.**"



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



## WALK OF HONOR

### Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

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

- **What Are We Having?** A Brick Fundraising Event
- **Why?** To Further Funding of our American Legion Programs and Offset Increasing Costs
- **What Size Are the Bricks?** We are offering 4"x 8" or 8"x 8" bricks for individuals, and 8"x 8" or 12"x 12" bricks for our corporate supporters.
- **What are the Costs for the Individual Bricks?** Prices range from \$75 to \$200, depending on size, style and lettering desired. For the 8x8 or 12x12 bricks, you can add a second emblem. Contact the Adjutant for ordering details. There is **NO** additional cost for the second emblem on the larger bricks.
- **What are the Costs for the Corporate/Veteran Supporter Bricks?** Prices range from \$125 to \$500, again depending on size, style and lettering.
- **What is the Difference between Individual and Corporate Bricks?** Individual bricks are identified for Veterans, and family members of Veterans wishing to purchase a brick to honor their Veteran. The corporate bricks are for our Veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who wish to show their continued support to our Nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the Brick Purchase Restricted to Members of the Post 209 Family?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves as a lasting memory of their association with Post 209. We also welcome anyone to purchase a brick for their Veteran loved one, or to show their support to our Veterans.
- **Can I Buy a 12"x 12" Brick for Myself/Loved One?** Absolutely!
- **Where Do I Go to Buy a Brick?** Visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is very user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. You will be able to see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How Do I Pay For the Brick?** We have the site setup to accept payment via PayPal or by check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where Will the Brick Be Shipped?** All bricks will be shipped to the Post. We will notify you when it arrives and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- **What Will Become of My Brick?** It will be placed near the Flagpole at the Post and will be part of the landscaping design we are working. If you are a landscaper or know a good one (preferably a Veteran), have them contact our Adjutant.
- **How Long Will this Fundraiser Effort Last?** We plan to only sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project. Currently, that is anticipated to be 600 bricks, but that number may change depending on brick sizes purchased and the final design approved by the Post.
- **Will I Have an Opportunity to Buy a Brick Later?** Quite possibly. It depends on what is decided/ approved for the next phase of our project.

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



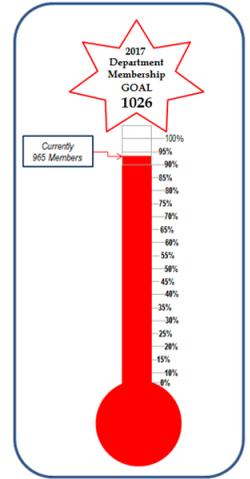
**From the Senior Vice Commander**  
Lino Calica

The 3R's (**RECRUIT**- New members, **RETAIN** - Existing Members, **REBUILD** - For the Future.)

I would like to thank Commander Mike, executive officers, and most of all the members of Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 for making the 2016 post membership a success. The continual support and dedication from the SAL, Auxiliary and Legion Riders have contributed to the great numbers in membership at the Post. All the programs have brought a variety of activities to the Post.

Currently, our 2017 membership count as of January is 865 members who have renewed and/or signed up as new members. We are at 84%, as of January 14, 2016. We are 161 members shy in meeting the Department Goal of 1026.

There will be a DMS (Direct Mail Solicitation) membership drive on the following dates and times listed below. Come out and support the membership drives. All you need is your cell phone and a charger.



February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>

Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209, 12:00pm – 5:00pm

February 4<sup>th</sup>

American Legion Post 38, 8:00am – 5:00pm

If you can't make it for all 3 days, that's okay. We need support each day so if you can only help on one or two of the days, that's appreciated also.

I would also like to thank Art and the kitchen crew for their hard work and dedication to provide the Post with their awesome meals.

Mahalo nui loa,  
*(Thank you)*



**Are You Ready For Some Football?**  
**Post 209 Annual Super Bowl Party!**



Yep, it's that time of year when the Broncos (or your favorite team) Jersey's are donned no matter the temp outside. Will we be watching the New England Patriots or the Atlanta Falcons put on the cap and tee shirt at the end of the game declaring themselves the winner of the 51st Super Bowl?

Come on out to the Post and root for your team, or at least one of the teams, to end the season with the top prize in the NFL and be crowned as the 2016 World Champions. It really doesn't matter whether you are a fan of either team, you should join us. The game should be great fun, and it's much better to watch the game with friends rather than watching it alone. We'll have fun, food, and maybe a drawing. There is a \$5.00 cover for everyone over the age of 12, and kids 12 and under can join in the fun for free. The festivities start at 3:30pm. There will be finger foods and drinks available for a donation. I encourage you to arrive early so you can get in on the fun and get settled in time for Kick-off.

We'll have the BIG screen on downstairs for folks to bring their entire family, and the lounge will be open to all who are 21 and over if they would prefer to watch the game from there.



## From the Historian

Eric Testorff - *Excerpted from the San Diego Union Tribune*

A few dozen white-haired Marine survivors of Korea gathered at Camp Pendleton to honor their comrade in arms — or, actually, hooves— with a memorial statue. “Horses and Marines are a lot alike,” said Harold Wadley, who served with the honoree and traveled to Wednesday’s ceremony from his home in Idaho. “They both are herd animals requiring leadership,” Wadley said. “The main difference is that horses instinctively flee from danger, and Marines run toward it.”

In late 1952, the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment in Korea acquired a packhorse quickly named Reckless after the recoil-less rifle platoon she was attached to. Reckless soon proved her worth beyond price. She learned to duck beneath barbed wire, lay flat if caught under fire on open ground and run for her bunker whenever artillery or mortars came flying. A horse without a herd, she bonded with the Marine grunts around her. “Cold winter nights, you’d find her nestled among her Marines by the oil stove,” Wadley said.

Reckless’ main job was transporting shells for the 75 mm rifle, a big weapon more like today’s mortars. Each one weighed more than 20 pounds. The Marines would tie four to six rounds to her back. With a slap on the flank, she was off to the front line, often solo.

In March 1953, the enemy overran the company’s location, Outpost Vegas. During pitched battle, Reckless is credited with making 51 trips to resupply the guns. She carried 386 rounds totaling more than 9,000 pounds and trekked over 35 miles up and down steep ridges. The horse also transported wounded Marines back from the front. Wadley remembers the scene: “It was like the sky was falling... I didn’t have near enough stretchers,” he said.

Reckless didn’t shy from her mission. She knew where her Marines were. “I looked back at the eastern skyline through all the smoke and could hardly believe my eyes,” Wadley recalled. “The silhouette of a heavily laden horse came in and out of view along the ridge. It was Reckless. All alone, scrambling in the torn earth to keep her footing.” The mare was wounded twice, on the forehead and in the hindquarter, receiving the Purple Heart.

Wadley said he sees more than a horse carrying ammunition when he looks at the new statue, in front of the base’s Pacific Views Events Center. “To me, she represents a whole lot more than herself. When I see her, I know that’s our 5th Marine Regiment, and all the guys we lost. There are just a lot of ghosts.”

Michael Mason, a corporal during Korea, remembers lighter moments, too. Reckless was as hardheaded as any Marine. At 6 a.m. every morning, Reckless would stick her nose in his tent. His bunkmate was one of the unit’s cooks. The mare yanked at the blanket on the cook’s bed until he got up and fed her. “We treated her as though she was another Marine. She was one of us,” Mason, who lives in Maryland, said after the ceremony. “After all, she outranked most of us.”

Reckless stayed behind in Korea after the fighting ended — again a horse without a herd, now a Marine without her brothers. It took an article in the Saturday Evening Post to generate enough public sentiment to bring her to the United States via civilian ship. Eventually, Reckless was billeted at Camp Pendleton’s stables. She lived a life full of carrots and parades. The mare gave birth to three colts. They were named Fearless, Dauntless and Chesty -- the last an homage to Marine Corps icon Chesty Puller, a fellow Korean War veteran.

Reckless died in May 1968. She was buried at the base stables with full military honors. Her obituary made the front page of the San Diego Union newspaper. Her memorial plaque reads, “Reckless. Pride of the Marines.”



CUSTOM CNC PLASMA CUTTING AND DESIGN

PRAIRIE METALWORKS, LLC  
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MAILING: 401 E. 4TH AVE.  
SPRINGFIELD, CO 81073  
PHONE: 719-523-3143  
E-MAIL: PRAIRIEMETALWORKS@GMAIL.COM

ANDREA KEENAN  
OWNER / DESIGNER

## Thank You to Our Sponsors!

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

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

## Bringing a Little South to the West - February

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

I was blessed to have had the privilege of growing up knowing and spending quality time with both sets of grandparents. They were simple cotton and soy bean farmers and lived in the same general community outside Cherry Valley Arkansas. While both farmed, the method they employed was as different as night and day, but that was already shared in a previous article.

Cherry Valley was a town along Arkansas Highway 1, (or “#1 highway” as was referred to by the locals) of about 354 citizens and located about 10 miles north of Wynne, a much larger town of about 3,000 back in the ‘60s. I know that because the population was printed on the signs as you entered the towns. That’s one of the differences between that part of the country and here. In the South, we put the population on the town signs. Here, they put the elevation. I guess that’s not necessary in the South because most of the places are at or very close to sea level.

We spent every weekend and most summer vacations at one or both grandparents’ homes. That was pretty cool as a youngster growing up in Memphis to be able to visit the country and experience all that is great about living in a small community. The drive was about an hour and a half from Memphis and we would load up the car and take off for Cherry Valley as soon as Dad got home from work on Friday. We’d typically stay until Sunday after church (if staying with my Mom’s parents) and lunch, or dinner as it was called by my grandparents. The little country Pentecostal church my grandparents belonged to and were devout in their attendance and belief is an article within itself. If we stayed with Dad’s parents, we would still leave after “dinner” but we didn’t go to church.

The Sunday lunch/dinner was worth the entire trip. MawMaw (Mom’s mother) would work up the yeast buns and leave them sitting on top of the stove to rise as we went to church. By the time we would return, the dough was high and moist from the layer of “real” butter on top of the dough. She would put them in the oven to turn brown and when they reached the dinner table, they could almost float. They always came out light and fluffy, much better than any “store-bought” buns on the market then and now. She would pan fry chicken and serve it with mashed potatoes and pinto beans. And there was always a pie for desert, more often than not it would be apple, but sometimes blackberry or even a cobbler.

PawPaw would say grace and the gluttony would commence. PawPaw was quite the prankster. Many family members believe I got my sense of humor from him. He went through a second, third and fourth childhood. Again, just relating some of the stories I remember about him is another article within itself. But because we are talking about dinner, I will share this memory. I took a high school buddy of mine to visit on one occasion. After spending some time with the family and going to church, we sat down to eat. PawPaw asked my buddy, Kenny if they said grace at his house. Naturally, Kenny said yes (not 100% true though). PawPaw then looked at him and said, “Go ahead.” Kenny’s face went ashen and he just stared at me ready to pass out. I couldn’t respond without busting out laughing so I just stood quietly and looked at PawPaw’s face with his eyes closed and head bowed and a big smile. After a brief and very uncomfortable pause, PawPaw said, “That’s okay, I’ll do it.” He enjoyed putting people on the spot and in uncomfortable situations.

I didn’t lose a grandparent until after I was in Service. Granddad was the first to go. He was a WWII Veteran and passed in the mid ‘70s. An interesting side note; Dad and Granddad (his father) both served in the US Army during WWII, and at the same time. Dad served in the Pacific and Granddad in Europe. PawPaw wasn’t able to serve due to medical issues he dealt with since birth.

I still have very vivid and fond memories of growing up and spending quality time with my grandparents. We learned how to chop and pick cotton, and how to drive a tractor to plow fields. We learned how to dig potatoes, pick Blackberries, Okra, Cucumbers, and many other fruits and vegetables. And one of the most important lessons I learned by staying with them was that when told to cut a hickory switch, NEVER, EVER pick a small one thinking it would hurt less. Man, that was dumb but a lesson I learned quickly.



## Post Officers 2016-2017

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



## ALR Officers 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 2016-2017

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



## Sons of The American Legion 2016-2017

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

## February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Groundhog Day Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	3 Price Varies w/Meal District 7 DMS Open House 12:00-5:00pm, Post 209 Hamdogger 6:00pm	4 District 7 DMS Open House 8:00am-4:00pm, Post 38
5 Super Bowl District 7 DMS Open House 12:00-5:00pm, Post 209	6	7	8 Young Guns 1830-2030	9	10 \$9.00 Meal Aux. Choice Dinner RSVP Required! 6:00pm	11 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Young Guns 1830-2030	16	17 Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! Moved to Saturday due to NRA Banquet Conflict!	18 14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!
19	20 Presidents Day ALR Executive Board 6:00pm	21	22 Young Guns 1830-2030	23	24 \$20.00 Dinner Comedy Show/Dinner! Dinner at 6:00pm Show Starts at 7:00pm (See Flyer)	25
26	27	28 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm	Notes:			

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

April 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	7 CANCELLED! Hamdogger 6:00pm 	8 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am ELECTIONS!  
9	10	11	12	13	14 Good Friday Aux. Choice Dinner RSVP Required! 6:00pm 	15 \$10.00 Dinner Department Commander's Homecoming! 5:00pm RSVP for Dinner 
16 Easter	17 Tax Day (Taxes Due) ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	18	19	20	21 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	22
23 World Immunization Week	24	25 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	26 Administrative Professionals	27	28 \$10.50 Meal Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	29 Department President's Homecoming! 5:00pm RSVP for Dinner 
30	Notes:					