

The Centennial



VOLUME IX EDITION 2

February 2019

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Lino Calica

As 2019 begins to get into full swing, I asked myself what type of activities besides our regular Friday night dinners, would attract the membership and community to participate at our local Post? Should the Post be opened more days in the evenings, what are your thoughts in the matter? I challenge you the members, to give your input on what activities you would be interested in seeing at the Post.

Shout out to everyone who has renewed their membership and recruited a new member. Without your help we would not have reached the department goal of 80% for January. As of the last count we were at 84% about 895 members. The department goal is 1065. Awesome job! Let's not stop there and continue to reach that 1065 goal by the end of March.

I would like to thank all the volunteers and members who continually give their time to assist in all the programs in the Post. Your dedication, time and participation are what makes our Post fun and exciting. With that being said we need your assistance in the promoting and selling tickets the American Legion 100 Year Celebration Lu'au. It will be on March 16. See Kellie Hayes to get your tickets. Also, the Auxiliary will be having a Craft Fair on April 6 at the Post. Let go out and support them.

Elections are coming in April. All positions to include Commander are up for nomination. Bill Burd will chair the nominating committee. If you are interested in running for a position or multiple positions, please contact Bill Burd at (719) 330-1279 or his email: advisor1colo@yahoo.com. While I was contemplating on running for office, I was afraid, due to my lack of knowledge and new to the American Legion. I was ensured by Jay Bowen, Greg Smith and other members who said, ***we will not let you fail*** and they will be there when I need them. I would like to thank them and everyone for their guidance. Here are the roles and responsibilities of Post Officers that was published in March 2016 Newsletter.

Commander: *You are entrusted with the supervision of the duties of all other Officers of the Post. You are the presiding Officer at all meetings and you must familiarize yourself with the policies and traditions of your Post and The American Legion.*

Adjutant: *You are the Secretary of the Post. Post activities will revolve around you. The Adjutant is the Post personnel officer; maintains membership records, minutes of meetings, checks up and assists with the work of the other Officers and Committees. You publish official orders; announcements and instructions.*

Senior Vice Commander: *Your primary concern is membership. No Post can survive without good membership. You should also be familiar with ceremonial protocols for regular meetings. A Vice Commander must be ready to fill in for the Commander upon a moment's notice.*

Junior Vice Commander: *You must be ready to promote your Post. The Commander will depend on you to provide programs that spice up the meetings and attract attendance. You should contact other Veteran and civic organizations so that each patriotic holiday and observance receives the attention it deserves. You are*

concerned with the pageantry of the Legion. You should also be concerned with the welfare of all fellow Veterans as well as with Veteran's affairs and rehabilitation committees.

Finance Officer: *You will serve as chair of the Finance Committee and will be in charge of all receiving and disbursing of Post funds. You will work closely with the Post Adjutant in all matters relating to the finances of your Post.*

Service Officer: *You should be a dedicated person and should have a deep interest in fellow Veterans, the Post and the community. You are responsible for bringing to the attention of all Veterans and their dependents the rights and benefits granted to them by law. You must know how to utilize the expert services available through Legion channels as well as through local agencies. You should be ready to visit dependents upon a death of a service member. You may be called upon to serve as chair of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee as well as working with children and youth committees or making hospital visitations. Appointed by the Commander-elect.*

Chaplain: *You must be a person capable of moral and intellectual leadership. You work closely with all other Officers of the Post. You should attend all meetings of the Post and Executive Committee. You should be ready to officiate when requested, at funerals of members. The Chaplain must also be ready to provide service to bereaved families of Post members.*

Sergeant-at-Arms: *You should know how to arrange the meeting hall, assist the Post Commander and Adjutant. You are the custodian of the Colors and in charge of Colors details during the presentation and retirement ceremonies. You should know how to display flags and their proper presentation. You are also responsible for maintaining order at all meetings.*

Historian: *You have the responsibility of preserving and compiling the records/photos (specifically through our Scrapbook and website) of our Post. You should try to attend Department Conventions and keep in touch with other Post Historians. [You are only encouraged to attend, not required.]*

Post Executive Committeeman: *You are a voting member of the Post Executive Committee, which is entrusted with the government and management of the Post. You shall be responsible to represent the interests of the general membership to the Executive Committee.*

Judge Advocate: *You will supply professional advice in the conducting of the Post business or to procure proper counsel. You are the interpreter of the Constitution and By-Laws of our Post. You may be asked to assist in auditing Post financial accounts. Appointed by the Commander-elect.*



From the Adjutant
Marvin Weaver, Jr.

We are doing well with membership this year but we still need about 160 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. Once you have recruited 5 new members you will entered into a drawing for a Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership.

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/donated from July 2017 to the end of January 2018. I will ask for this information again to capture your volunteer hours, mileage, and donations from the end of January 2018 through June, so please start tracking this to make it easier to remember.

Our Post will host the Department Convention this year and with this we are able to sell ads for the Convention Book. We get to keep the money from the sale for the Post. If you have a business that you frequent or own your own business consider having an ad placed in the booklet to help out the Post. If you need more information about sizing or cost please contact me and I will get the information to you.



From the Unit 209 President

Cathy Barger

Wow, I can't believe that it's already February. Just a quick note on membership, our Unit is doing well on membership, but we still need more members to renew and at least get one new members to reach our 2019 goal. If you haven't already renewed for 2018, please send in your check for \$35.

On February 2, Memorial Gardens Cemetery will clean-up the wreaths placed during the Holidays, this begins at 10 a.m. Please come and help if you can.

We'll be having our regular monthly meeting February 9th. Please join us for a great breakfast and stay for the meeting at 10 a.m.

The Auxiliary will be adopting a Troop that will be deployed for 9 months to Kuwait, there are 31 members in the Unit and over half of them are single. We will ask the Unit what type of things they would like to receive while deployed. Once Kellie gets notified when they are leaving, we will hand out pocket flags to each member in the Unit. More to follow, stay tuned.

If you are available to volunteer for any of our dinners or breakfasts, please contact me via email at catbarger@comcast.net or by phone (719) 290-3163. If you can't carry trays to the tables, maybe you could help with the dishes, sweeping, or washing off the tables. We would also appreciate you attending these events.

Elections will be here before you know it. If you would like to run for a position please let us know. The offices and a short explanation of the positions are: **President**- to conduct meetings of the Unit and Unit Executive committee; **Vice-President**- assist the President and in the absence of the President perform her duties; **Secretary**- record all proceedings and maintain those recordings; **Treasurer** - receive and disperse all money belonging to the Unit and account for them; **Chaplain**-offer opening and closing prayers at the meetings; **Historian**- compile historical records of the Unit and send reports to Department; and **Sergeant-at-Arms**—preserve order at the meetings.

Don't forget that Post 209 will be hosting a Lu'au for the American Legion 100th Birthday, on March 16th. This is open to Legion members and the Public. Get your tickets from Kellie Hayes, Jackie Bowen or me, cost is \$25.00 for Adults, \$10.00 for children 7 & up, children 7 or under are free. The raffle prize is a 7 night stay on the Island of Kauai in a 1 bedroom condo with private pool, raffle tickets are \$10.00.

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

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Come Out and Meet Jim Pisa, American Legion National Vice Commander for the Western Region



Jim Pisa, from Alaska, will visit Post 209 on Sunday, 17 February from 12:00 noon until about 3:00pm. Come out and meet this very interesting Legionnaire! Let's show him some Colorado Springs and Post 209 hospitality!

We will be conducting a membership call-in drive from the Post and will treat Jim to some lunch.

Please plan to attend!



From our American Legion Riders President Steve Hayes

The American Legion Riders (ALR), Post 209 is off and running for 2019! As of our January 22nd meeting, we have newly elected or re-elected officers for the year: Steve Hayes (President), Tim McDowell (Vice President), Mark Griffin (Sergeant-at-Arms), John Hanchek (Road Captain) and Kellie Hayes (Treasurer). We've also approved our 2019 ride/event calendar, which will be published on the website soon. The highlights of our 2019 schedule include: March 2nd Biker's Ball to generate funds for residents at McCandless Veteran's Home in Florence; April 13th annual ALR 209 Spring Fun Run; June 8th ALR 209 High Country Run; July 10th – 14th Mount Rushmore run; Jul 20th annual ALR209 Poker Run; Sep 29th Annual Neal Thomas Jr. Memorial Run; and the Oct 15th Veteran's Stand down. These are just a few of the events – check out the calendar for the full schedule!

Our next event is the February 8th ALR family dinner at the Post (6pm). This event has been designated as a fundraiser event for the Hurley family to help offset expenses associated with the recent death of their son. Doug Hurley is a member of the Post and a former Road Lieutenant in ALR 209. Cost will be \$10 per person. The menu is meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, dinner roll and dessert. Please turn out to support the Hurley Family and enjoy an awesome meal!

Be safe – Catch you on the road or at the Post!



**WE WILL CELEBRATE THE AMERICAN LEGION'S
CENTENNIAL WITH A LU'AU ON SATURDAY, 16 MARCH.
THIS FUN EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE HOTEL ELEGANTE!**



**THE FUN STARTS AT 5:00PM, AND A LU'AU DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT
6:30PM.**

**WE WILL HAVE A POLYNESIAN DANCE TROOP PROVIDE
ENTERTAINMENT, AND OUR PAST NATIONAL COMMANDER, TOM BOCK
WILL OFFER A KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO COMMEMORATE THIS
HISTORICAL EVENT.**

**YOU CAN ALSO BUY A CHANCE TO WIN A 7-NIGHT STAY IN A 1-
BEDROOM CONDO ON THE ISLAND OF KAUI. RAFFLE TICKETS ARE
ONLY \$10 EACH! THE DRAWING WILL BE DONE AT THE LU'AU!**

**CHECK OUR WEBSITE, OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND COME TO THE POST
FOR MORE INFORMATION!**





Millie Young, a True American Hero

by Eric Testorff and Jay Bowen



On Tuesday, 15 January, 2019 at 2:00pm, we witnessed the end of an era for our Post. Millicent “Millie” Young was laid to rest at Evergreen Cemetery in Colorado Springs next to her husband, Bill, in a very touching and unique graveside service.



Millie was a WWII Women Airforce Services Pilot (also referred to as the Women’s Army Service Pilots), or WASP. Just over 1,000 women successfully completed the WASP program, and fewer than 30 are still living today. Their mission was to provide training to other pilots, ferry aircraft from the factory to military bases, and test new aircraft.

This small group of heroic ladies, while not serving in a combat zone, provided critical mission support to the war effort. Interestingly, they did not receive Veteran status until 1977, and since most of us met Millie through the American Legion, thank God they did or we may never have gotten to know this wonderful lady.

One of Millie’s favorite stories (and she had many) was about one of her roles as a WASP. She pulled a “tow” drone behind a long tether and our Artillery guys would shoot at the drone. She would tell us she was being shot at by our own soldiers. Fortunately, they never hit her.

Millie was a member of The American Legion and Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 for 29 years. Most who knew her well used terms like, “she’s a pistol,” or “firecracker” when referring to this sweet lady. She kept people laughing with her quick wit and was always ready with a story about her life. She attended many dinner events and rarely missed a monthly meeting. Due to her advancing health issues, her attendance at both became increasingly less frequent. Although her health was deteriorating, her spirit and sense of humor remained strong.

Included among the many, and richly deserved awards and recognitions Millie received in her later years were the Congressional Gold Medal, awarded in 2010 by President Obama; being honored to serve as the Colorado Springs Veterans’ Day Parade Grand Marshal; and being awarded a “Quilt of Honor.”

Millie passed on January 12th, 2019, and was buried in a style known as a “natural burial.” The funeral was indicative of her life; classy, and at the same time, simple. Millie’s sons and daughters brought her to the gravesite in what appeared to be a wicker canoe. She was completely wrapped in a blanket and surrounded by flowers. Her children placed her next to Bill’s grave, and the preacher began the service. After a while, Millie’s sister and sons stepped forward and regaled the crowd with tales of life with this wonderful woman. It was a life well lived, with intrepid and patriotic service during the war, and afterwards, including raising 50 foster children over the years.

Toward the end of the service, the preacher called for Final Military Honors, and our Post 209 Honor Guard, along with three members of the US Air Force, rendered Honors befitting a pioneer and a Veteran who so faithfully served her country. The family then carefully laid Millie to rest next to Bill, took up shovels and lovingly closed the grave.

Millie Young now joins the ranks of the many unique and interesting Post 209 people who have gone on to the Post Everlasting. She remains in our thoughts and our memories as a Veteran who honorably served her country, a parent who cared for many children, and a comrade who enriched the lives of those around her. Millie, in the words of Fyodor Dostoyevsky, *“May your sky always be clear, may your dear smile always be bright and happy (it indeed was), and may you be forever blessed for that moment of bliss and happiness which you gave to another lonely and grateful heart. Isn’t such a moment sufficient for the whole of one’s life?”*



American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial



Auxiliary Unit 209

All proceeds go to American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls' State Program

WHEN: Saturday – April 6, 2019 – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

WHERE: American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209
3613 Jeannine Drive
Colorado Springs, CO
(Just off Academy)

COST: \$2.00 entry = 1 door prize ticket
Canned good donations for Care & Share will get another door prize ticket

CONTACT: Kellie Hayes at Hayeskelliej@yahoo.com for booth rental questions

***DOOR PRIZES – JEWELRY – POTTERY – CANDLES – BAKE SALE & MORE!!
Just in time for Easter baskets, Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts.***



Update from our 7th District Commander

Mike Barger

I hope everyone had a wonderful Happy New Year. A quick update from the District side of the house. We are currently setting at close to or just a little over 80% membership as a District at the time of this article. I know Post 209 has already surpassed that target of 80% by January 16th, for we are currently sitting over 85%. I'd like to thank all those that are continuing to recruit new members and to get our current members renewed. It's difficult to do, but you always seem to find it in your heart to continue to renew and recruit. Keep up the good work. It's still our goal not just at the District level, but at our Post level too, to hit our quota of membership and surpass it by end of month in March.

On the matter of looking to keep this Post solvent by looking at fundraising events, we have a great opportunity this year to make a major dent to making ends meet this year, without us having to hit our savings/CD.

Lu'au

First off, let's get out there and promote this Lu'au that's coming up March 16th. The more tickets we sell, the more money we make. It's our 100-year celebration for The American Legion, so let's support this big event, for the centennial celebration only comes one time. If you haven't purchased your Lu'au ticket (\$25 for adults, \$10 for kids 7-12 and free for kids under 12), please contact Kellie Hayes or me and we'll hook you up. You also have an opportunity to win a 7-day trip to Hawaii. For a chance to win, purchase a raffle ticket for \$10.

Department Convention

Post 209 has accepted the request from Department to host the 2019 Department Convention at the Hotel Elegante in June. This is our opportunity to show all the other Posts why we're the best and largest Post in Colorado. Being the host Post, we are the only one that can sell things at the Convention. We're also looking for businesses to purchase pages in the convention book, to promote their business. Costs will be provided later, so keep an eye on the upcoming newsletters for this. When we hosted the Convention a few years back, we cleared almost \$5,000, so we really need do our part and we can meet or surpass that dollar figure this year.

Golf Tournament

And last but not least, we will be hosting a golf tournament at Kings Deer Golf Club on August 10th in Monument. We're looking for folks to go out and hit businesses up to sponsor a hole or offer up items for prizes. The cost to sponsor a hole is \$250. The cost to play in the tournament, will be \$125, and this may be tax deductible on your taxes. Please make every effort to support this, and/or sell it to our community. Flyers are available at the Post, and if you need a letter to take one to a business, reach out to me and I will get you one.



From the Historian

Art "AJ" Carter

Colorado Post 209 Past Events

DEC 15: Wreaths Across America. Each year, the graves of departed Veterans are decorated with live wreaths. The event happens simultaneously across all time zones in the US, and this year "France" participated in laying Wreaths across France. Ceremonies began at 10:am. Thousands of wreaths were placed at Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Colorado Springs. Chaired by Eric Testorff and at the "Pikes Peak National Cemetery."

This tradition started in the 1990s when the Worcester Wreath Company quietly decorated graves at Arlington National. More than a decade later, a viral photo of the cemetery spurred interest in similar events nationwide.

In Colorado Springs, volunteers decorated the graves of Veterans buried at "Memorial Gardens Cemetery" and "Pikes Peak National Cemetery." The American Legion said it's important the name of the Veteran be read aloud and honored with a hand salute when the wreaths are placed.

"You die twice: Once when you breathe your last breath, and a Second time when they forget your name," said American Legion District Historian, Joseph Schmidt. "So, we always make sure to say the name of each Veteran out here at the cemetery so that they know that they're remembered."

DEC 15: Annual Christmas Party, The annual Post 209 Christmas Party and Potluck! The un-wrapped gifts for "Toys for Tots" was a big success, thanks to all. Chaired by Cathy Barger-Post Auxiliary President and her elfs.



From The Sons of The American Legion Squadron Commander

Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski

SAL memberships expired December 31st. Our goal is 105 members and we are currently at 48. If you haven't renewed, please renew now to keep your membership current and help us continue our successful programs. The cost is \$20 for those who are 18 and older, or just \$10 for members under 18.

Let me introduce the National SAL Ten Ideals Program.



The Ten Ideals is a national award of recognition that may be presented to those who have completed the Ten Ideals Program. The Ten Ideals are as follows:

PATRIOTISM

Turn out for Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans Day parades and ceremonies. Learn the proper display of the flag. Learn the "Pledge of Allegiance."

HEALTH

Write an essay on how to maintain sanitary conditions to promote health in: (1) your home (2) in our Post home (give examples of sanitation and safety standards in our Post home), and (3) in camps and outdoors in general. Explain what you do daily to keep fit.

TRAINING

Become a squadron officer, or assist a squadron officer(s) during and between meetings and activities.

KNOWLEDGE

Maintain a passing mark in school. Know the ten ideals and five points of service. Explain what each part means. This may be written or oral. Know the SAL emblem. Explain what each part of the emblem stands for. If possible, use an emblem which comes apart so that the emblem can be put together as it is being explained.

HONOR

Honorable service in the squadron over a period of six months will qualify you for this award. Honesty of action and purpose, and truthfulness will help you achieve this.

FAITH

Good conduct and willingness to obey instructions over a period of six months will earn the squadron's recognition of your faith in its leadership and ideals.

HELPFULNESS

Develop reasonably consistent attendance at meetings and other functions. Volunteer for tasks for the good of the squadron and be reliable in carrying out your part. Help promote your squadron by signing up at least one new member, and help collect dues from existing members.

COURTESY

Apply yourself diligently to show you are polite and respectful to your comrades, officers, Legionnaires and others with whom you come in contact.

REVERENCE

Show where you are a member of a religious group. Aid in placing markers and flowers on Veterans' graves.

COMRADESHIP

Show the tie that binds you to the squadron and the Legion by helping in the annual Poppy Sale, thus aiding disabled Veterans. Help cheer some Veteran in a hospital or in his home.

Recently we've had two members of Squadron 209 to be the first ever to complete this SAL youth program at Legion Post 209.

They are your Sgt-at-Arms, Stanten Krasinski and your Chaplain, Shelten Krasinski.

They will be formally and publicly recognized at our 100th Anniversary Hawaiian Luau event on March 16th.

Please visit the Sons of The American Legion website and view all the current stories at www.legion.org/sons.

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



Young Guns Update

Ken Taylor

The Winter Young Guns Class starts Thursday, February 14th at 6: 30 PM. The class is open to all youth ages 10 through 18. If you know anyone who would like to participate, contact David Hall at 719-659-1035 or Becky Hall at 719-231-0597. The cost is \$25 for the 9-week course. Everything is provided to include rifles, pellets, targets, books and all needed supplies. Legion membership is not required.

NRA Marksmanship will begin on Wednesday, February 13th at 6:30 PM. This class will be nine weeks as well. The first level is Pro Marksman, then Marksman, Marksman 1st Class, and Sharpshooter. The Sharpshooter level has 9 bars to achieve before trying the Expert level. All shooters will be working to achieve the highest level possible. The cost for attending this class is \$25 and you must be enrolled in the Young Guns training.

We are raffling a Ruger 10/22 rifle to benefit the Junior Shooting Sports Program. The cost is \$10 per ticket or 3 for \$25 and just 250 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be February 15th at 7:15 PM. The rifle was donated by Mr. Justin Green of Stop Drop and Shop. The Post 209 Family sends out a big THANK YOU to Justin!



From the Jr. Vice Commander

Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski

As I try to gather my thoughts, compose something worth reading for you and to serve a purpose with my message, I decided to go back in time to see what the Jr. Vice from years past had to say at this time. I found that what our Jr. Vice spoke of back in 2016 is still so true today so I quote from the Jr. Vice Commander, Mike Barger, back in January 2016.

"Now it's time to begin another year here at Centennial Post 209. With a new year upon us, it's time for us to go back to work and continue what we do best, helping Veterans. Along with helping Veterans, we also need to look at helping us as a Post. With more and more Veterans requesting assistance from us, we need to look at ways we can give back to this Post. Not only in volunteering our time, and in helping keep our expenditures to a minimum, but also to put more money back into this Post. We can't keep going on the course we're on if we don't come up with ways to pay ourselves back, so we can continue to be an instrumental source of assistance to Veterans in our community. If anyone has any ideas on how we can do this, please bring them forward, and if you're interested in helping out, volunteering with some of these, please let us know. Remember our motto, "The little Post, going place and doing big things." We haven't become the 2nd biggest (now biggest!) Post in this state without you all."

We cannot help the Veterans if we cannot help ourselves first...is still paramount today! 'We can only make a difference if we are involved...participants not spectators.'



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

Origin of NAVY Terminology

Rusty Bower



The NAVY Stockless Anchor and Anchor Chain:

The NAVY Stockless Anchor is a little more complicated than most land lubbers think. The anchor was patented in England in 1821. It has seven parts, the ring, shank, bill, fluke, shoulder, crown and balancing band. The crown, arms, and flukes of the anchor are cast in one piece and can pivot slightly from side to side on the shank. The flukes are long and heavy and have projecting shoulders at their base that catches on the sea bed. As more drag is exerted, the shoulders force the flukes downward into the bottom. The anchors onboard a NAVY Aircraft Carrier weigh 40,000 pounds each.

Anchor Chain. Anchor chain is put together in "links." Each link can weigh anywhere from 100 pounds to 500 pounds depending on the size of the ship and the ship's anchor. The links are connected to form "shots." A standard shot is 15 fathoms long (90 feet). Each shot is marked to determine the length of anchor chain. There are 13 lengths of anchor chain. When the 12th shot is reached it is painted yellow to warn you that you are coming to the end of the chain. (called the warning shot) The 13th shot is painted completely red. This is the DANGER chain shot letting you know you are at the end of the chain. It is stowed the Chain Locker.

Bringing a Little South to the West

Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

This time of year typically invokes memories of my days attending Oakhaven Elementary School in Memphis. This was a pretty big school. We went from 1st grade through 6th grade in one building, then across the campus was our Jr. High and High School building. For those who have read my articles, you know I brag about attending the same school for 12, almost 13 years.

February was a special month even to us younger kids in Elementary school. I remember going to the five and dime, or the Ben Franklin five and dime (today, it would be called the dollar store) with Mom to buy Valentine's cards. We bought them by the box and we had to make certain we bought enough to give all the kids in class, boys and girls. The teachers never allowed us to only buy cards for a few in class; if you were going to hand out cards on Valentine's Day, you had to give one to everyone.

We would also buy the little candy hearts with Valentine's Day messages on the candy. Like the cards, we had to make certain we had enough to give all the kids a candy heart. Back then, it didn't seem strange to give a card and a heart to both boys and girls. We were just glad to get candy and have some fun rather than doing math on a blackboard or some other schoolwork.

Most of us would write something inside the card. For me, it was typically, "Happy Valentine's Day" (that was for the boys). For the girls I wanted to impress, I would write something like, "Be My Valentine!" Wow, even way back then it appears I had a real gift for words. ☺

And I was very careful which candy heart I handed out and to whom. While most of the messages were pretty benign, there was always a few that had that special message meant for those pretty little girls I wanted to like me. For them, I would make certain they got the heart with the endearing message of something like, "You Are My Valentine," or "You are Very Special." Man, I was cool.

We took turns by rows walking around the room handing out our cards and candy hearts. I would pause just for an extra second when delivering cards with the "special prose" meant for the girls I was trying to impress. Our teacher watched us closely to ensure we gave out cards and candy to all the kids. No one was to be left out. She always kept cards and candy hearts in her desk just in case a kid came up short in the total count.

After all my cards and candy was handed out, I would rush back to my desk and wait my turn to receive cards and candy from my classmates. I paid particular attention to the girls that I liked and would set their card and candy off to the side to read later. I didn't want to chance missing a "come hither" smile from one of the girls by reading a card.

After everyone had completed the chore of handing out cards and candy, the teacher would give us time to read the cards and snack. I saved only the cards from the girls who were special to me. And I would hold on to the candy as long as possible, which meant I would eat those last. After all, it was candy and I was a third grade kid. Candy was more important than girls back then. Not by much, but it still ranked higher.

You know, it's funny. I never really had lewd or impure thoughts about those girls. Oh I guess I did wonder what it would be like to kiss one, but that was about all that ran through my 9 year old brain. Today, I would be expelled and probably sent to Juvenile Court for even thinking about that sort of thing.

Anyway, Happy Valentine's Day to all of you, boys and girls alike. And for that special girl in my life, thanks for being my Valentine for more than 47 years.



Post Officers 2018-2019

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Sr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Jr. Vice Cdr	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-359-6356
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Paul R. Darrow	719-237-4461
Sergeant-at-Arms	Joe Schmidt	651-328-9029
Historian	Art "AJ" Carter	603-913-3261
Post Exec. Cmtee	Bill Burd	719-330-1279
Service Officer	Art "AJ" Carter	603-913-3261
Judge Advocate	Marvin Weaver, Sr.	719-638-4763
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



Auxiliary Officers 2018-2019

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Vice President	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073
Secretary	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Jackie Burd	719-590-6615
Sergeant-At-Arms	Kris Floyd	719-308-2150
Historian	Nancy LaFayette	719-594-6806

Sons of The American Legion 2018-2019

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-359-6356
Vice Commander	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Adjutant	Steve P. Cox	970-580-8191
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stanten Krasinski	719-359-6356
Chaplain	Shelten Krasinski	719-359-6356
Historian	Vacant	
Squadron Advisor	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047



American Legion Riders 2019-2020

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Steve Hayes	719-494-7166
Vice President	Tim McDowell	719-510-9907
Secretary		
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Sgt-At-Arms	Mark Griffin	508-314-4554
Road Captain	John Hanchek	719-648-5415

Calendar of Events (see back page for February)

March 2019

- 1st, Hamdogger Nite, 6:00pm
- 4th, Post Honor Guard Training, 6:00pm
- 6th, Marksmanship Training, 6:30pm
- 7th, Young Guns, 6:30pm
- 7th, Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
- 8th, Auxiliary Dinner, **(RSVP Required!)** 6:00pm **(\$9.00)**
- 9th, Breakfast, 9:00am
- 9th, Legion/Aux. General Membership Meeting, 10:00am
- 11th, Post Honor Guard Training, 6:00pm
- 13th, Marksmanship Training, 6:30pm
- 14th, Young Guns, 6:30pm
- **16th; Centennial Celebration Lu'au, 5:00pm**
- 18th, Post Honor Guard Training, 6:00pm
- 18th, ALR Executive Board Meeting, 6:00pm
- 20th, Marksmanship Training, 6:30pm
- 21st, Young Guns, 6:30pm
- 21st, Fundraising Committee Meeting, 7:00pm
- 22nd, Chef's Choice, 6:00pm, **(RSVP Required!), (\$10.50)**
- 25th, Post Honor Guard Training, 6:00pm

March 2019 (cont.)

- 26th, ALR Monthly Meeting, 6:30pm, Social Hour, 5:30pm
- 26th, SAL Monthly Meeting, 5:45pm
- 27th, Marksmanship Training, 6:30pm
- 28th, Young Guns, 6:30pm

April 2019

- 1st, Pikes Peak Honor Guard Meeting, 6:00pm
- 3rd, 10th, Marksmanship Training, 6:30pm
- 4th, 11th, Young Guns, 6:30pm
- 4th, Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
- 5th, Hamdogger Nite, 6:00pm
- **6th; Auxiliary Craft Fair, 9:00am – 4:00pm**
- 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th; Post Honor Guard Training, 6:00pm
- 12th; ALR Dinner, **(RSVP Required!)** 6:00pm **(\$9.00)**
- 13th; Breakfast, 9:00am
- 13th, Legion/Aux. General Membership Meeting, 10:00am
- 15th, ALR Executive Board Meeting, 6:00pm
- 23rd, ALR Monthly Meeting, 6:30pm, Social Hour, 5:30pm
- 23rd, SAL Monthly Meeting, 5:45pm
- 22nd, Chef's Choice, 6:00pm, **(RSVP Required!), (\$10.50)**

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

February 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	2 Groundhog Day
3	4 Pikes Peak Honor Gd. Meeting 6:00pm 	5	6	7 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	8 \$10.00 Meal ALR Dinner RSVP Required! 	9 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
10	11 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	12	13 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	14 Valentine's Day Young Guns 6:30pm 	15 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	16
17 Lunch with National Vice Commander Jim Pisa - 12:00pm  Post 209	18 Presidents Day Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm 	19	20 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	21 Intl. Mother Language Fundraising Committee 7:00pm  Young Guns 6:30pm 	22 \$10.50 Meal Chef's Choice! - RSVP Required!   	23
24	25 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	26 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	27 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	28 Young Guns 6:30pm 	Notes:	



Happy Valentines' Day!