

# The Centennial



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## From the Desk and Mind of the Commander



The year is progressing well and Post 209 is determined to help Veterans and their families. It is always good to see members come back that have been out for a bit and to also see new members come and see our Post. This Post is our “home” and it is great to see how we talk about our Post to others. As we approach each month in the coming year, we need to continue talking to others; invite Veterans to visit; and teach others what we are doing in the community. These are the foundations and pride of our Post and our Legion family. Share the information today with someone new and help them understand the power of the American Legion.

By the time you read this, the DMS will have come and gone. I hope you had a chance to participate and to help other Veterans find a home Post like we have here. These new members will soon see why we call this Post “home” and the enjoyment of the family. Our focus is not the “male Veteran” only, selected ranks, or bar and smoking; it is the Legion family and the atmosphere of belonging. The latter is essential in today’s world.

The winter will soon pass and Post 209 will burst with movements, activities, and events. Please watch the calendar and emails so you will not miss out on any of these fabulous times. The Riders will start adding miles, the SAL will continue to visit hospitals and kids, Auxiliary will serve and support dinners, outings, and visits to others Veterans’ residents, and Legionnaires will strive to get the word out about Veterans’ matters, benefits, legislative bills, and VA issues. Get involved today and change the lives in our community’s future. Sitting idle can only bring discomfort and discouragement about the things that are not right or beneficial to our Veterans who have given so much for our freedom.

Our Department Service Officer(s) have once again started sessions at Post 209 from 10:00 to 2:00 on the fourth Saturday of each month. If you need help or know of a Veteran who needs help with benefits or VA services, please call Department Service Office for an appointment or walk in on that day. It is time to not wait anymore, get to them and establish your benefits.

There are upcoming events that need your attention: March 5, Bikers’ Ball (all proceeds go to the Florence Veterans’ Nursing Home), April 2, Limon’s Run for the Wall fuel Stop at Post 1985, May 7, District 7’s Convention at Post 209, and the Memorial Weekend in May, which will show pride for those that have served. Please find the time to support, attend, or get involved with these events. They all matter to Veterans’ and their families.

As the year continues, Post 209 will soon be having their elections for the upcoming year. Please watch for the announcements and show your support by voting. Our nominations officer for the upcoming election is Ken Taylor. His number is in the newsletter. Please email or call him of your intentions. If you currently hold a position and are not able to be present for the elections, please email him so as to confirm your plans of the office. You can email by proxy of your intentions, but you cannot vote by proxy for the upcoming elections.

At this time, I would like to say thank you for your support and trust in leading this Post over the last couple of years. I have met many friends, families, and Veterans while in this position and hope that I have done well in representing you, this Post, and its members. I will not be seeking re-election this year for Commander, Post 209, as I have been called upon to seek a position as the District #7 Commander. I am confident that you will support me in this endeavor. Again, thank you for this opportunity and trust.



## From the Unit 209 President - March

Jackie Bowen

Let's wish Bobbi Ashley, Amanda Baldwin, Lori Hardy, Josie Hartley, Kellie Hayes, Mary Jenkins, Christine Long-Klinedinst, Sarah Paxton, Brenda Wash, Pat Weaver, & Debbie Westrom HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

We get to welcome two new members. Shelly Smith and Ayana Espinola.

For those of you that couldn't make it, we had a great February meeting. We were honored with a visit from the Auxiliary President-elect for Department, Evelyn Espinola and our past Department Jr Auxiliary President Ayana Espinola. Ayana transferred to our Unit. On Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> our Unit will have the honor of hosting our National President, Sharon Conatser for lunch. This is open to all our Legion family. We NEED an RSVP NLT April 14<sup>th</sup>. We will also need volunteers to help prepare and clean up. Lunch will be served at 11:30.

It's time for elections. If you would like to run for an office please talk with Donna Rae Smith. She can be reached at [donna.shippersonthego@outlook.com](mailto:donna.shippersonthego@outlook.com) or at 815-973-0073. 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/dispense 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. You can also find descriptions in your Unit handbook and online at [www.alacolorado.com](http://www.alacolorado.com) or [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org).

We need ladies to chair committees. This would entail sending reports to the Department twice a year. These reports help us keep our IRS 501 (c) (19) status by letting them know what all we do to help Veterans and their families. You don't have to be able to attend all our meetings or functions, just give us your contact information so other members can report their hours and what they do so you can report to Department. If you get zero reports then you just report "No reports received" to Department. Here are some of the committees we need chaired. **Americanism, consisting of:** American Legion Auxiliary Girls State; Pocket Flag Project Flag; Education Flag Etiquette; Flag History; Americanism Essay Contest; Star Spangle Kids; promote the observation of patriotic holidays; encourage members to vote; support for American Legion Baseball; Oratorical Contest; Junior Shooting Sports; Information booths; and promote pride in belonging to the world's largest women's patriotic organization. **Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, consisting of:** Volunteers at VA health care facilities through the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS); and become a regular VAVS volunteer and enter all of your VAVS hours into the VAVS tracking system. **Service to Veterans, consisting of:** Quilts of Valor; VA Creative Arts Festivals; Habitat for Humanity; Help Homeless Veterans; assist and support caregivers of Veteran Auxiliary members; and provide volunteer hours in service to Veterans and their families, in local communities and from their homes; crochet stocking hats for the homeless; bake cupcakes for the local stand

I have been asked if there is a way our members can make a one-time or recurring monthly donation. If this is something you are interested in doing, please select the amount and program(s). Send this to the Post address and make it attention to Jackie Bowen. Include your check, cash, or money order for the donation, and thanks!

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Annual \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly \_\_\_\_\_



If you have a specific area or program you want your donation to go to, list it below:

Girls State \_\_\_\_\_ Homeless Veteran Stand-Down \_\_\_\_\_

Pueblo VA Nursing Facility All Activities Day \_\_\_\_\_ General Fund \_\_\_\_\_

## Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209; New Name, Same Proud History

Gregory Smith, Commander

At our membership meeting on 13 February, a motion was approved to honor the memory and accomplishments of former Post and Department Commander, Neal Thomas, Jr. by associating his name to our Post.

After the motion was made and seconded, we entered into lengthy discussion. There were impassioned remarks from our members in support of the name change as well as those who felt it was not necessary and should not be done. A “hand vote” was taken on the motion and it passed by majority vote. In Accordance With the Post Adjutants Manual, Section 1, *“If changing the name when applying for a permanent charter or after the permanent charter has already been established, send a copy of the minutes or the resolution, or both, to department headquarters. The department will request the name change.”*

For those few people at our Post who never had the privilege of knowing Neal, he was a 35+ year member of The American Legion and one of our strongest supporters and allies. To name just a few, his accomplishments included serving as Post 209 Commander, Department of Colorado Commander from 1988-1989 (one of only two Department Commanders from Post 209), and many Post, Department, and National Committees and Commissions. He advocated for our Post at the Department and National level and was instrumental in our selection as Host Post for Department Conventions in 2010 and 2015. Right up to his passing after a long illness on 28 September 2014, Neal was an unwavering supporter and dynamic participant at Post activities and events. At our Department Convention in June 2015, he was recognized as the Department of Colorado Legionnaire of the Year. What a moment of Valor for his dedication and compassion for the American Legion.



Lynn Thomas, Neal’s wife, was contacted for permission to re-name the Post after Neal. She told us Neal would have been extremely honored to be associated with the Post he loved so dearly, and she readily gave permission to put Neal’s name to the Post.

As soon as the paperwork is approved, we will officially change the name and another announcement will be made. This will in no way alter nor diminish the proud history and accomplishments of our Post. Many believe adding Neal’s name will add a distinguished description to our Post amongst the Posts in Colorado and the more than 14,000 Posts around the world, several of which are also called “Centennial Post.”



### Yum, Yum, Eat'em up!! Butter Braid Sale



Starting February 5, 2016 we will be doing another Butter Braids sale. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors’ friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than March 3, 2016. Delivery date is March 16, 2016 at 1:00pm. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen, (719) 574-1223, with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment when you call. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

#### FLAVORS:

Caramel Rolls (9 rolls)      Cherry Cinnamon   Apple Blueberry Strawberry & Cream Cheese



\*\*Rusty Bower’s new column to bring a little “salt” to the post.\*\*

### Origin of NAVY Terminology Rusty Bower



#### Duffle

A name given to a Sailor's personal effects. Also spelled duffel, it referred to his principal clothing as well as to the seabag in which he carried and stowed it. The term comes from the Flemish town of Duffel near Antwerp, and denotes a rough woolen cloth made there.

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



The Junior Shooting Committee selected two Young Guns participants for an all-expenses paid trip to the NRA Whittington Center at Raton, New Mexico. This was made possible by grants from the NRA, the Pikes Peak Firearms Coalition, and an individual donation. The trip is called "Adventure Camp" and will be held June 12 to June 24. Campers will fire several types of rifles and shotguns including everything from black powder to a 50 caliber. There is also archery and a survival campout, all guided by NRA Certified Instructors.

Participants are Edward Ash and Kacey Wade. Two alternates were also selected, Alec Depp and Thomas Wade. Selections were made based on a written essay about the 2nd Amendment to the US Constitution, participation in the NRA Marksmanship program, and scores in the American Legion Postal Contest. This will

be a great experience and is well deserved by any and all of these young shooters. They will do a great job representing The American Legion and themselves.



The Junior Shooting Class got off to great start on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> with a full class of 12 students. The new shooters learned about gun safety, parts of the air rifle and equipment needed for junior shooting competition. We meet every Wednesday for 8 more weeks and everyone is invited to come and observe the class. If you would like information about our classes, please contact Ken Taylor at 719-



### **American Legion Riders *Motorcycle Minute* - March**

Andy Gilbert, ALR President

March is here. Thanks Jim Bivens for bringing your active duty friends to help clear out the basement. They got rid of a lot of trash and organized the good stuff with Jackie as a drill sergeant. These young Army bucks got right to work and didn't slow down until it was time to eat. We are looking forward to seeing them again.

Gene (painter and fixit guy), Kellie Hayes, Jackie, Cathy, and Thumper's niece Shannon were key in sprucing up the Auxiliary room while Johnny Linville, Max and Clyde took care of installing additional security lights and outlets where necessary. This project was completed from members of each of our Post families. My mother once told me, many hands make light work and this was no small project. Thank you for all who helped. This is exactly what keeps this Post vibrant and alive.

Don't forget to support the Bikers Ball, March 5<sup>th</sup> at Post 38 at 6pm. These funds benefit McCandless Veterans Home throughout the year and we are honored to be part of this event. You do not have to be a Biker to go to this event and if you have any questions, please call me. 719-231-6696.

We had a mission Feb 20th. Sadly, we lost another soldier who served in Afghanistan. Jeremy Martinez spent his time in Afghanistan from 3/6/2006 -7/12/2012. This young man served his country well. Our hearts are filled with sorrow for his family. Although we gave his family a proper and respectful ceremony of life, we wish he were alive and with us today. Our prayers are with the Martinez family.

Keep a close look out for any of our Vets active or inactive who need help. War is hard on everyone and sometimes it's important to just listen to their problems. Please keep anyone you know like this in your prayers and in your life. If you are confused trying to figure out how to help, talk to leadership in our Post.



**From the Jr. Vice Commander - March  
Mike Barger**

A big thank you needs to go to the entire American Legion family, to include SAL, AUX and ALR for coming out and supporting one of our own ALR rider family. With little time to arrange the spaghetti dinner, it's amazing to see how this family steps up when others are in need. Folks from Post 38, 2008 and Post 2 came out also. When all things came to an end that night, we were able to raise \$1450 for this family.

Kudos also goes out to the Auxiliary for putting a new look in their meeting area. It sure livens up the room. Good job!

Elections are coming up again this year, and it's never too early to begin thinking about what you can do for this Post. If you're interested in running for a position, now is the time to think about it. Please let any one of the officers know what position you'd like to run for so we can begin putting our lists together. But you don't have to be an officer to make a difference in this Post.

Like I stated last month, if you have any ideas to on how to help this Post stay solvent, please feel free to come to any one of the officers and let us know what you're thinking. We are open to all ideas.

The March ALR dinner will be Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, veggies and dessert for a low cost of \$9. Come out and support the riders. For a bunch of bikers, they can sure put on a good meal.

Our guest speaker for March will be Gary Hudson from Dignity Memorial to let us know about a seminar to be conducted at Country Buffet on 3/17/16 at 6 pm. RSVPs will be required.



**Hippity Hoppity, Easter's on the way!**



On Saturday March 26, 2016 2:00pm, we want you to join us for an Easter egg hunt and fun with the kids of our Legion family. The hunt is for the younger kids not those young at heart. Bring your kids, grandkids, great-grandkids, great-great-grandkids ages 2-12.

**Let's Go On A Nature Walk With the National Commander - March**

Dale Barnett, The American Legion National Commander will visit Colorado in May, and he wants to include Colorado Springs in his visit to the Rocky Mountain State. Every State he visits, Commander Barnett wants the community to turn out and "Walk For Veterans." He encourages Departments to schedule a Nature Walk somewhere in their community and invite anyone interested in showing their support to our Nation's Heroes to come out and walk with him.

To commemorate the event, he has designed a T-Shirt. Our District Officers are selling the T-Shirts for \$10 prior to the event and we are encouraging all who plan to attend to buy one and wear it that day. Proceeds from the sale will go to Commander Barnett's project, the National Emergency Fund. Contact Commander Greg Smith or Eric Testorff if interested in T-Shirt.



According to his tentative schedule, Commander Barnett will be in Colorado Springs on Monday, 23 May in the afternoon. If his schedule doesn't change, we will conduct the walk at the Garden of the Gods, starting at the North Main Parking Lot and will walk for about 1/2 mile around the Kissing Camels rock formation area. We are scheduling the walk to being at 3:00pm. Later that evening, we plan to host the National Commander for dinner at Post 209, and all are encouraged to attend the dinner, even if you can't make the walk. More details will be announced as the Commander's plans are solidified. Keep watching the Newsletter, our website, and our Facebook page for updates.

## **Elections Are Coming!**

The election of Post Officers is coming soon and all members are encouraged to participate. Please contact the nominating chairman, Ken Taylor, if you are interested in running for any position. He can be contacted at 719-761-4047 or email [adjutantsal209@gmail.com](mailto:adjutantsal209@gmail.com). IAW with Article III of our Post By-Laws, elections will be held during our April membership meeting. All Post positions are open for nominations, with the exception of the Service Officer and Judge Advocate, which is appointed by the Commander-elect. We will also vote on a couple of members for the Board of Trustees during the April meeting.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of Officers**

**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:** Also known as the "First Sergeant." 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 with out 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 our Post. The Commander will depend on you to provide programs that spice up the meetings and attract attendance. You should contact other Veteran and organizations so that each patriotic holiday and observance receives the deserved attention. You are concerned with the pageantry of the Legion. You must also be concerned with the welfare of Veterans and 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 visits. 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 Commander Squadron 209 - March

Rick Kettering

I have been asked many times “Why should I join the S.A.L. when I am already a member of the legion?” Being a member of the American Legion is based on the Legionnaire’s personal service in the military. Becoming a son is based on a Father’s, Stepfather’s or, Grandfather’s service. It is a way to honor their service to this great country. Being a dual member shows dedication to your comrades and comrades of earlier generations. Many of us served in the military but not during the right time thus making us ineligible for The American Legion. There are also members yet too young to be in the military but are members honoring their family members that have served. The Sons of The American Legion was founded in 1932 and has 54 Detachments, 6,072 Squadrons and, 358,280 members. Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, S.A.L. is a program of The American Legion.

Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Riders comprise the Legion Family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4.2 million.



With those numbers in 2015, the S.A.L. donated 357,235 total hours and \$1,376,833.00 to Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. Children & Youth programs totaled 202,240 service hours with \$1,203,088.00 in donations. Americanism programs hit a total of \$2,127,994.00 and 734,592 hours of support. These numbers are derived from the consolidated reports Squadron Adjutants submit each year. Even though these numbers are outstanding there is so much more we can do.

Pictured above are some of the young men of Colorado Sons being presented with “Building Bridges” pins from Past National Commander Mike Moss.

I have been a member since 2012 and have watched our Squadron grow from 12 to over 80 in that time. We have members in age from their 80’s to 6. These younger men are the future of the Sons and they will continue with the goal of assisting in carrying on for God and Country.

These are reasons why we all who are eligible should become members, so my question to them is “Why not”?

For God and Country



## From the Adjutant - March

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

Very soon the Department is going to send me "THE ANNUAL REPORT." This is a report of what we as Legionnaires are involved in and what we do each year. It is important because National uses the information compiled from all the Posts in The American legion to report to Congress what we have done to help Veterans and Children. If you are involved in the community, another organization or children and youth, please take a few minutes to provide the Post with the type of activity, hours and any money you spent and the number of people/children involved, and send it to me. If you're not sure, send it to me and I will see if it can be used.

The National Commander will be in Colorado this coming May and one of his programs is “Walk for Veterans.” He uses these walks to raise awareness in the community. We will be holding one of these walks when he is in Colorado Springs on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Garden of the Gods. The time of the walk has not been finalized yet but more information will be coming about his visit.

District 7 Convention will be on May 7<sup>th</sup> here at the Post starting at 11am. We will have officers from Department to give updates on what is going on within the Department. We will also be having election of District officers. Lunch will be provided.



## FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK - March

### LOVE

I hope that those of you that attended this year's Department Mid-Year service enjoyed it. For those of you that did not attend it, you missed our own Jay Bowen, doing many different things at this convention. Greg Smith helped me with the Sunday service and many thanks to him for coming to help me out. I think that maybe next year we should have our own Four Chaplain's candle light service on the first Sunday of February. Many Legion Posts do that throughout the nation. It is something to think about! Our own Jay Bowen will be running for Department Commander at the June Department Convention. Dean Noechel, our current District 7 Commander will be entering the race of Junior Vice Commander. I hope that many of you will be able to attend the Department Convention in Longmont.

Here is devotion from Max Lucado about LOVE:

First of all I would like to give you a scripture about love: 1 Corinthians 13: 4 – 7: "Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. Love is not rude, is not selfish, and does not get upset with others. Love does not count up wrongs that have been done. Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes and always remains strong."

The single most difficult pursuit is truth and love.

That sentence is grammatically correct. I know every English teacher would like to pluralize it to read: the most difficult pursuit are those of truth and love. But that's not what I mean to say.

Love is a difficult pursuit.

Truth is a tough one, too.

But put them together, pursue truth and love at the same time and hang on baby; you're in for the ride of your life.

Love in truth. Truth in love. Never one at the expense of the other. Never the embrace of love without the torch of truth. Never the heat of truth without the warmth of love. To pursue both is our singular task.

Here is a prayer for you: "GOD of Heaven, we see YOUR hand stretching as far as the East is from the West. Put YOUR hands and YOUR arms around us all and embrace us, FATHER. Then help us all to stretch out our hands and arms to a world that desperately needs YOUR LOVE-----and ours."



## From the Sergeant-At-Arms - March

Sgt. Ski

Good day American Patriots,

As your newly appointed Centennial Post 209 Sergeant-at-Arms, I would like to introduce myself. I am Stanley K. "Ski" Krasinski, MSgt, USAF/ANG...commonly referred to as Sgt. Ski! It is completely my honor and delight to join you as a member of Centennial Post 209 and to serve as your Sergeant-at-Arms. I am blessed to have been a member of America's military might for almost 22 years now and am proud to continue my service in the Air National Guard as an Active Guard Reserve (AGR) here in Colorado. I am the son of a 33 year Veteran of the Army Air Corp and the USAF who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam; CMSgt. Albert H. Krasinski, USAF, Ret/Dec. I have two incredible sons, Stanten Keagan and Shelten Reagan who are members with me as "Sons of the American Legion" in honor of their Grandfather.

As I diligently try to teach them, it is through our service to others that our true happiness and blessings are found. With that being said, let us all consider and evaluate all that our Legion Post is involved with and what we are trying to accomplish on many fronts. If nothing else, I challenge all to come to the Post on Friday evenings for dinner...and then make it a habit. Our task is to willingly do all we can do and then to ask ourselves...what else can I do? Determine where we can individually contribute and then take steps to do so.

We can only make a difference if we are involved participants, not spectators. Also, please remember in the words of one of my sons namesake:

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same."



# 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.

## Bringing a Little South to the West – March

By Immediate Past Commander Jay Bowen

As many of you who read this little monthly offering knows, I have a brother a year older than me. For most of our childhood, Bubba was always just a “tad” taller than me but other than that, we were very close to the same build. Even though he would occasionally refer to me as “fatso,” it wasn’t a true picture of my stature or his. I think it was just one of the many ways he tried to endear himself to me by giving me these funny little nicknames.

We never had much money growing up. As Dad used to say, “If I miss a paycheck, I’ll go to jail!” That wasn’t exactly true (I don’t think), but he worked for the same company for 43 years so his theory was never tested. You may recall from a previous editorial, anytime we would ask about why a neighbor had something we thought was pretty cool such as a new car or a window air conditioner, he would typically reply, “Why boy, I’d rather live next door to someone with an Air Conditioner than have one.”

Anyway, we never had the wherewithal (pronounced where with all), to splurge on luxuries such as name-brand clothes. It was rare indeed that we would even go to Sears and Roebuck, and when we did it was because they would be running a huge sale. Most of the clothes we wore for school and church was either hand-made or bought at Kent’s Dollar Store. Kent’s was a local store very similar to a Ben Franklin 5 and dime. But they specialized in clothes that were “knock-offs” of a name brand or “slightly irregular.” That meant you had to really inspect the shirts to ensure the sleeves matched in length or the colors weren’t faded a little, or maybe some other small imperfection.

To add to that, it was a real treat for me to get fitted for a new shirt or jeans. Most of the clothes I wore growing up, at least until high school were “hand-me-downs” from Bubba. Our 13 months age difference made it almost perfect for me to grow into his size about the time he grew out of it. And at that age, the growth was pretty quick so there wasn’t much time between my inheriting one of his old shirts. Most of the time, he didn’t have time to wear them out before his arms outgrew the shirt sleeve. Hmm, in retrospect maybe that was part of the slightly irregular part.

As with most of the things that happened in our lives and especially growing up, there are lessons to be learned from this. We were never the best-dressed kids in our school, and we never had the latest and greatest toys or technological gadgets, but our parents provided for us and made certain we had enough food on the table and a bed to sleep in at night. And every year we went on vacation somewhere. Most of the time it was a nearby lake, but there were a few trips that took us across the country. We didn’t go to Disney, but we saw Mount Rushmore and Yellowstone Park. Most importantly, we were a family unit and all played together. In many respects, that makes us rich beyond measure. Isn’t that kind of like what we have in The American Legion? We are a family unit. We work and play together. We don’t have to go to exotic places to have fun and share. We are truly blessed and rich beyond our wildest dreams.



## From the Judge Advocate - March

Chuck Zeitvogel

You’ve heard it before and most likely will hear it again, the old adage - **Time Waits For No One!** And so it is in our American Legion schedule. Elections will be upon us and it will be time to be thinking about electing new or re-electing Post 209 officers to serve another year. The nominations committee is already asking members if they would like serve and from that pool of volunteers elections will be held, normally in April and newly installed officers will begin serving immediately after the Department Convention in June. All is subject to change but the bottom line is “Time Waits For No One.”

Post 209 is an active Post and there will many experiences to share when your year of service is over June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017. Again, time waits for no one and the opportunities to serve will be enjoyable.



## Post Officers 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Stan Hamamoto	719-322-6959
Sergeant-at-Arms	vacant	
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Post Exec. Cmtee	Jay Bowen	901-484-7193
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Jeremy Boltjes	218-831-0475



## ALR Officers 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Secretary	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Grady Mitchell	



## Auxiliary Officers 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Joan Ciani	719-579-9194
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-3193



## Sons of The American Legion 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Sr. Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Commander	Ronny Ross	719-493-2583
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
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

## See Back Page for March 2016 Calendar

~ April 2016 ~							~ May 2016 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CFS is Chicken Fried Steak Choice of Fish or Chicken Fried Steak on 22 April					1 Hamdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order.	2	1	2	3	4	5 Cinco De Mayo Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	6 Hamdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order.	7 District 7 Convention Post 209; 11:00am
3	4	5	6	7 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	8 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	9 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am	8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	14 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am
10	11	12	13	14	15 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	16 Adult Only! Bag Lady Sue (Comedian) Post 38; 6:00pm Fundraiser	15	16 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm	17	18	19	20 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	21 Armed Forces Day
17 Auxiliary National President Visit and Luncheon; 11:30am \$5.00	18 Tax Day (Taxes Due) ALR Executive Board 6:00pm	19	20	21	22 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFS! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	23	22	23 National Commander Visit; Walk w/Veterans Garden of the Gods Dinner	24 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm	25	26	27 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFS! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	28
24	25	26 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm	27	28	29 Arbor Day	30	29	30 Memorial Day	31	Notes: CFS is Chicken Fried Steak Choice of Fish or Chicken Fried Steak on 27 May  National Commander Dale Barnett Visits. Walk With Veterans at Garden of the Gods; 3:00pm Dinner with Commander Barnett at Post 209; 5:00pm			



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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

~ March 2016 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	4 Hamdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order. 	5 Biker's Ball Post 38; 6:00pm 
6	7	8	9	10	11 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! Salisbury Steak! 	12 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
13 Daylight Saving Time Begins	14	15 The American Legion's 97th Birthday 	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	19
20 Spring begins (Northern)	21 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	22 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	23	24	25 Good Friday! Fish/CFS! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	26  Easter Egg Hunt! 2:00pm
27 Easter! 	28	29	30	31	Notes: CFS is Chicken Fried Steak Choice of Fish or CFS on 25 March for \$10.50	

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