

The Centennial

VOLUME I EDITION 3

MARCH 2021



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917
719-599-8624 WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2020 - 2021 OFFICERS!! 2020-2021 American Legion Post 209 Officers

Commander: Joseph Schmidt 651.328.9029	Finance Officer: Vacant	Executive Committeeman: Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610
Sr. Vice Commander: Marvin Weaver Jr. 719.244.3535	Chaplain: Glen Thompson 334.717.3746	Judge Advocate: Marvin Weaver Sr. 719.638.4763
Jr. Vice Commander: Sarah Tobin 719.439.7724	Historian: Vacant	Service Officer: Art Carter 603.913.3261
Adjutant: Jerry Hopper 918.953.9980	Sgt At Arms: Joel Haas 719.482.4496	Honor Guard Captain: Michael Wescott 719.306.9170
		Club Manager: Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610

2020-2021 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

President: Cathy Barger 719.290.3163	Secretary: Pat Weaver 719.638.4763	Chaplain: Donna Rae Smith 815.973.0073
Vice President: Donna Testorff	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	Historian: Royce Hopper
		Sgt At Arms: Annette Coakley 228.243.1218

2020-2021 Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

Commander: Michael Wescott 719.306.9170	Adjutant: Rick Kettering 813.967.6680	Sgt At Arms: Bob Ingram 480.353.8234	Chaplain: Steve Cox 970.580.8191
Sr. Vice Commander: Brian Wess 719.528.6672	Jr. Vice Commander:	Finance Officer: Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	

2021-2022 American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

President: Stewart Anderson	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	VP: Ed Santos 719.329.4357	Road Captain: Tom Foster	Historian: Scott Laudan
Secretary: Mike Sylvester	Sgt At Arms: Drew Pearson	Communications: Monk Baylis	Logistics: Caty Daly	

2020-2021 Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Jon Davis K0YOV	Vice President: George Johnson KE0ALQ	Director: Jim Harris W0EM
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Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU

Treasurer: Henry Russell KCONAJ

2021 DINNERS AND EVENTS RE-OPENED!

Due to the reduction in COVID-19 cases and a relaxation on social gatherings, the Post leadership decided to re-open events and Dinners this month. We will observe the mandates handed down by our Governor and allow up to 50% capacity for all events.

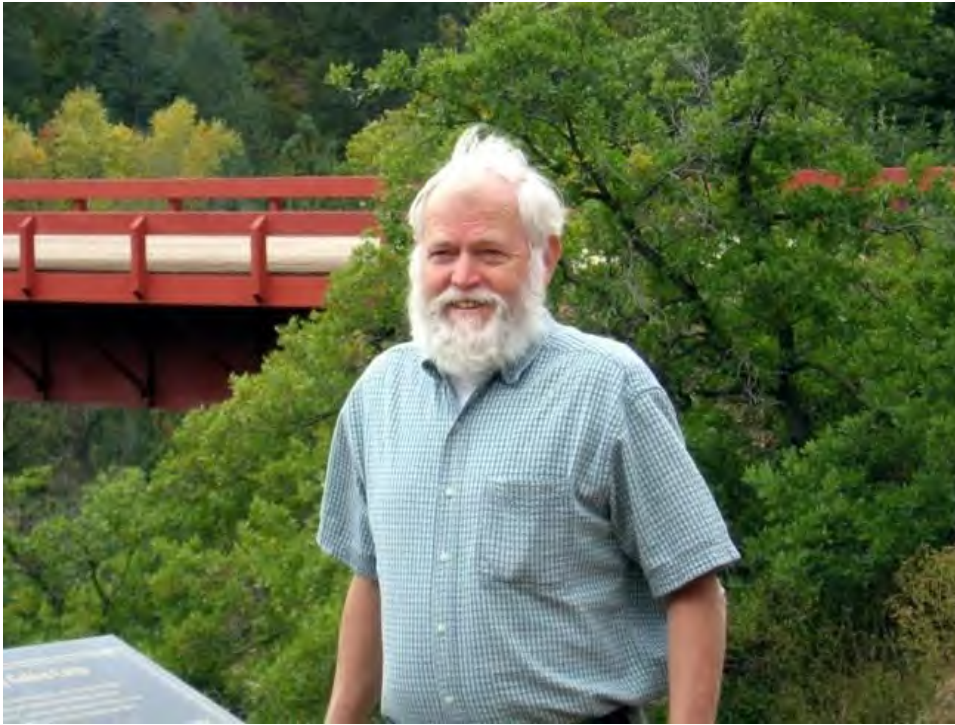
If restrictions are further reduced or changed in any way, we will adjust as appropriate. We recommend you continue to monitor our website and Facebook page for updates.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and continued support.

Post 209 Family Leadership



IN MEMORY



Charles J. "Chuck" Zeitvogel was transferred to Post Everlasting when he passed away at home on 22 January, 2021 of "natural causes." Chuck was born in Rochester, New York on September 4, 1935 and grew up on a farm near Byron with four siblings. While still in high school, he enlisted in the Army National Guard. At the age of 20, he joined the United States Air Force and traveled the world for 30 years retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant.

After retirement, Chuck continued to serve his church and community as an active leader in Boy Scouts, The American Legion Post 209, The Knights of Columbus, and The Retired Enlisted Association. He was a 33-year member of The American Legion and served Post 209 in many capacities and positions. Chuck served as Post 209 Commander from 2001-2004 and continued serving after his terms of Commander ended. He remained a very active volunteer throughout his life and provided guidance and counsel to all Post Commanders who followed him.

Chuck gave back to the people around him by volunteering to help do taxes for the VITA program and the AARP. He entertained and educated young people as a docent at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and engaged all ages through Toastmasters. He was a member St Patrick's Catholic Church for over 30 years and served there as in various capacities.

A lifelong learner, he received an Associate Degree in Applied Science, Food Technology in 1955 from State University of New York at Morrisville. Chuck then obtained his Bachelor of Art degree in Business Administration from Wittenberg University OH in 1975, and finally his Master of Science in Public Administration from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs in 1991.

He was a thoughtful husband, wonderful father, and beloved grandparent. He leaves behind his wife Veronica; son Chris; daughter Marla, her husband Marty and their three children Derek, Callista, and Phoebe; daughter Lisa, her husband Mike and their four children Corrie, Katie, Gregory, and Elizabeth. He also leaves his brother Bill and sister Mary, as well as stepchildren and grandchildren.

Rest in Peace my friend. Your presence, laughter, wit, and leadership will be sorely missed.



FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

Volunteers are the backbone of the American Legion; without them we wouldn't be able to support the thousands of Veterans we do each year. From Post Commander to donating time or a pair of socks every volunteer plays their part in continuing the mission of the American Legion. There are plenty of reasons to get involved, but the number one reason is happiness.

A study published recently in the Journal of Happiness Studies, researchers examined data from nearly 70,000 participants in the United Kingdom, who took surveys about their volunteering habits and mental health, including their distress and functioning in everyday life, every two years from 1996 to 2014.

Compared to people who didn't volunteer, people who had volunteered in the past year were more satisfied with their lives and rated their overall health as better. Additionally, researchers found that people who volunteered more frequently experienced greater benefits: Those who volunteered at least once a month reported better mental health than participants who volunteered infrequently or not at all.

According to Ricky Lawton, associate director at Simetrica Research Consultancy, lead author of the paper, a combination of factors is likely at play. First, volunteering appears to be intrinsically rewarding when we help others. Second, volunteering is likely to help boost our sense of social connection. In particular, for older adults, volunteering can be a way to stay connected to others after retirement.

Finally, volunteering can be a way to build professional skills and try out leadership opportunities, which is especially relevant to younger Veterans. In the study, researchers found that participants ages 16-24 and 55-74 were especially likely to benefit from volunteering, perhaps because of the opportunity to build social connections and new skills.

So maybe volunteering can do more than just help others; maybe it can help your own wellbeing. There are plenty of opportunities in the Post, finding one is as simple as reaching out or coming to a Friday night dinner. Together we can continue to serve the Veterans and their families in this community.

Works Cited-

- "How Volunteering Can Help Your Mental Health." Greater Good. Accessed 23 Feb. 2021.

-Lawton, Ricky N., et al. "Does Volunteering Make Us Happier, or Are Happier People More Likely to Volunteer? Addressing the Problem of Reverse Causality When Estimating the Wellbeing Impacts of Volunteering." Journal of Happiness Studies, Mar. 2020. Springer Link, doi:10.1007/s10902-020-00242-8

Joseph Schmidt
Post Commander



Celebrate

At
American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

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



Rental Features:

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

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



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

Well, we are on our way into the unknown. The year of 2021. If you are eligible, have you taken advantage of the COVID-19 vaccination yet? I thought about it for quite some time. As many of you are in the same pickle that I am health wise, we could suffer considerably if we contract the virus. I finally decided to take the risk. It wasn't a big deal, like some eluded to. I had no reaction to the first shot. I'm due to receive the second shot in two weeks. Then, it will be behind me.

Moving on to a more pleasant topic. Post Officer elections are scheduled for 4/10/21. Nominations are open for all positions. If you or someone you know is able to spend some time and want to volunteer for a rewarding position in the American Legion leadership, let Marvin Weaver Sr. know. He will see to it that your name is placed on the ballot.

I want to thank Tom (Dundee) Foster for his heroics. Alone and unafraid on 2/14/21, he faced the record-breaking sub-zero weather conditions, clearing the Post parking lot of snow.

Jerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



FROM THE DESK OF THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

This is a reminder that if your membership card does not have the year 2021 on it; your membership expired on Dec 31st. If your card says 2020 please send in your renewal or contact Adjutant Jerry to catch up on your membership today.

Things have been tough for the Post because of the COVID-19 restrictions but we have been able to stay afloat. Your membership helps us to maintain and continue forward with the programs we have. The Post will be doing buddy checks this month. With the buddy check we will be calling members just to see how they are doing and to let them know that we are still here. With the isolation we have all been experiencing a phone call can go a long way. If you would like to help out with making the phone calls please contact Jerry.

Thanks for everything you do to help out veterans and our community.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Sr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

Excerpts from February's speaker, Don Miranda:

Death can be one of the hardest things to go through, it is ok to not be ok. You will experience a range of emotions from denial to happiness, sometimes all at once. You can never replace those that are lost, but you can replace income. No one likes to plan for these eventualities as it is an uncomfortable conversation.

Things to consider:

1. Insurance - Accidental Death, Whole vs. Term Life and Long Term disability.
2. Estate Planning - Most people do not have a Will or Trust. Consider purchasing software for ~\$75 to assist in paperwork preparation in the proper format for your state. All you have to do

then is print and get notarized at a bank. Will are subject to being thrown into and stuck in Probate, Trusts are not.

3. Burial plans - Arrange for a plot, decide on what military honors you would like to have, which funeral home and set aside enough money to cover the casket and delivery services.
4. Ensure you have multiple copies of your DD214 and your loved ones know where it is.
5. Take care of your survivors - make sure they understand your VA benefits of survivorship and have multiple copies of your Death Certificate to initiate a claim.
6. Death Certificates can be very non-descript. It will be a generic Manner and Cause of death. It is important to capture contributing factors that are in the vet's VA records so that you can tie back a death to an underlying condition (if applicable).
7. Make sure your survivor and/or trustee knows your medications, co-morbidities, medical conditions, service connected issues, VA contact # for Regional Office of Veterans Benefits Association.

References:

DIC: <https://www.va.gov/disability/dependency-indemnity-compensation/>

Burial: <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/pre-need-eligibility>

<https://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-10007.pdf>

Death Certificates: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/blue_form.pdf

<https://blog.vitalchek.com/death-certificates/truth-behind-death-certificates-need-know>

Sarah Tobin
Jr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT



Elections are coming in April. All positions to include Unit President are up for nomination. If you would like to run for an office, please send Jackie Bowen an email at jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com and let her know what position you are interested in serving.

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 those 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.

Sergeant-at-Arms – preserve order at the meetings.

You can also find descriptions in your Unit handbook and online at www.alacolorado.com or www.alaforveterans.org.

Our next meeting is on March 13th at 10:00 a.m. Come and have breakfast beforehand, at 9:00. Remember to check out the calendar for all the Legion Family Dinners.

Soon we will be heading into Girls State season. We will be doing interviews with the young ladies soon. If you would like to sponsor a girl, please contact Royce Hooper or Jackie Bowen.

I would like to wish the following ladies a HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Theresa (Terry) Albert, Christel Barnett, Jackie Bowen, Sandra Carr, Kellie Hayes, Lisa Hughes, Robin Pehle, Tracey Ruzicka, Charyse Schmidt, Sherryl Surrena, Brenda Wash, Patricia Weaver, Kaycee Velie. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Cathy Barger
Unit President



FROM THE DESK OF OUR SAL COMMANDER

Squadron 209 received 4 Awards from Detachment of Colorado; they are VA&R for the year 2019-2020, Children & Youth Award for the year 2019-2020, JO D. ROE Memorial Award for Americanism for the year of 2019-2020, and the last one is for Americanism for the year of 2019-2020. Also, Post 209 will be hosting the 2021 CWF Banquet in April. There will be a Silent Auction at the Banquet. I would like thank Mike Barger for stepping up to be Squadron 209 Advisor. We have changed the meeting time from 5:45pm to 5:30pm to allow any of our members that are part of ALR to make it to their meeting which is on the same night as the Squadron.

Michael Wescott
SAL Commander



FROM OUR POST ELECTIONS NOMINATIONS CHAIRMAN

I have been asked to be your Election Chairperson. Elections are coming in April. All Positions are up for nomination. If you are interested in running or nominating an individual for a position or multiple positions, please contact our election chairperson, Marvin Weaver 719-638-4763 or weavermr@q.com.



FROM OUR POST HONOR GUARD

The Post Honor Guard has been busy providing Final Honors at PPNC. Last year with COVID-19 the Honor Guard was still able to do 43 Final Honors and 5 Posting of Colors. In February, we provided 3 Flag Folding and Presentation ceremonies to Taylor Elementary School. Also, we were requested to retire the old Flag and present the American Flag for a Group called American Flag Across America. This was started this year on the East Coast and is going to the West Coast. I also want to say Thank You to all of Post 209 Honor Guard Member's for doing a great job! Here's a couple of stories about the "American Flag Across America" campaign mentioned in my article (edited as necessary).

Sea to Shining Sea

Mosby's Story:

The message and goal are unity. Just the American flag and a handful of Americans. I started this over coffee and a sunrise on my back porch. America the Beautiful was stuck in my head that morning. It was the week before elections. Monday AM to be exact. I was angry at my local media for only showing stories of violence being planned for the upcoming election. A false narrative laced with lies and propaganda. And golly gee, they didn't even mention [other] groups. And I was angry. Anyway, I turned off the news and walked out on the deck for a beautiful sunrise and started singing... "Oh beautiful for spacious skies..." Then I thought...

What could we do to defeat the media narrative, and cancel out all this negative with something positive? And I was stuck on "from sea to shining sea." So, I started making phone calls.

By Wednesday AM I had most of it set up. Just complete strangers who really don't even know each other in real life. A simple show of unity, from sea to shining sea.

The idea, and goal is just to pass the flag as far as we can. To highlight America the Beautiful, and shift some of the focus off the negative. To show that even in the most trying times, America is still a beautiful place, with beautiful people, from sea to shining sea...

And so, it began that Sunday. The flag left Johnny Mercers fishing pier in Wrightsville Beach, NC at 0900 hrs. on Nov 1st.

And so began its journey. And so began the unity, that you see before you, for the simple idea of passing a flag, from sea to shining sea, and uniting everyone involved, and even some who aren't.

So, in the end we hope to display it in a museum here in America and know it succeeded in uniting a small handful of beautiful Americans, from sea to shining sea.

And that's it. No fancy speeches... no gimmicky slogans, just America the Beautiful, from sea to shining sea. No motives, no politics, no anything. Just one brain fart, a cup of coffee, and someone who tries to do some good in the world from time to time.

So far, everyone I invited in has a story of unity. A unique story for everyone. From being stranded hundreds of miles from home with a load of supplies, to countless hours of community service, to many sleepless nights organizing disaster assistance. Everyone has a special place in this story. And everyone has their own story. It's those stories that make the endeavor so incredible. The focus started with unity. And what better place to start than with those I knew who united hundreds of thousands of Americans in times of dire need. And each story starts with... I did it because I could.

So, I passed a flag across the country, because I knew we could.

Sandra's Story:

The flag that Mosby started at the beaches of North Carolina was semi-retired on the western border of N. Carolina and will be sent back to him by a VFW Veteran. The second flag traveled from the border of North Carolina to Colorado Springs, CO where Sandra Seidell and Tom Bruner received the flag. The flag had frayed quite badly during its travels from the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel in Tennessee down into some of the hardest hit hurricane areas of Alabama,

Louisiana, and Texas. It needed to be retired and replaced with a new flag purchased by Sandra at Affordable Flags and Fireworks with funds from Rachel Carre (TX Volunteer Driver).

Sandra reached out to a dear friend, Tim Keck, from the local VFW Post 101 in Colo Sprg's for help. Tim quickly organized the Honor Guard ceremony with the American Legion Post 209 today to semi-retire the second flag. Present were Michael Wescott (Honor Guard Captain and member of American Legion Post 209), Jeraud Stuart (Honor Guard member and member of American Legion Post 209), Brian Wess (member of El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition), Tom Bruner (CO Volunteer Driver for Sea to Shining Sea Project), and Sandra Seidell (CO Volunteer Driver and U.S. Army Veteran).

The third flag will travel to the California beaches before being semi-retired. All three flags will be shipped back to North Carolina with the logbook and all the photo ops taken along the way. The little green logbook that accompanied the flags across America has entries within for every leg of the trip. Each entry lists every person who handed the flag off from American to American and the route where the flag visited across America. Photos will be printed, and video will be presented to a museum with the hopes of displaying unity in America against all odds. Best Regards,

Sandra Seidell

Spouse: Tom Bruner

Michael Wescott

Honor Guard Captain



FROM OUR LEGION RIDERS PRESIDENT

We hope everyone is doing well with COVID as well as the recent cold and snowy weather! This will be my last newsletter posting as ALR209 President. It has been an absolutely amazing two years to serve the Post and ALR in this capacity. As an ALR, we have grown and improved in so many areas, to include increased ride/event participation, improved riding proficiency and safety, the addition of a motorcycle mounted color guard, better teaming with other Veteran rider organizations as well as increased material/fiscal contributions to the Post and local Veteran's causes. This has all occurred due to the energy, creativity, attitude and camaraderie of our ALR members and the support of the AL209 family, for which I am truly grateful. Stewart Anderson formally takes over as ALR209 President on 23 February. I know that he and his team of Ed Santos (Vice President), Drew Pearson (Sgt-at-Arms), Tom Foster (Road Captain), Kellie Hayes (Treasurer), Mike Sylvester (Secretary), Caty Daly (Logistics), Scott Laudan (Historian), Monk Baylis (Communications) and the entire ALR209 membership will do an awesome job in the coming year. So far in 2021, the event calendar has been pretty slow. Despite that, the ALR209 riders have still kept busy. On 21 and 23 January, our Riders took advantage of a couple warmer and sunnier days and hit the road for some 140 to 170 mile rides. Our 23 Jan. ride was a joint event with ALR38 with everyone enjoying a great lunch break at Canon City Brews & Bikes. We also had the honor of providing mounted color guard funeral escorts for Air Force Veterans Jim Howe and our own past Post 209 Past Commander Chuck Zeitvogel on 9 and 11 February respectively. These were joint color guard events between ALR209, ALR38 and Patriot

Guard with the addition of Combat Vets participation in Jim Howe's escort. As we move into March, we are looking forward to taking advantage of every weather break we get before the formal ride/event schedule begins picking up in April. Ride safe!!!

Steve Hayes
ALR President



FROM OUR SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

While there are some limitations to be observed, 2021 sees American Legion Post 209 moving forward in the new year. We are seeing members, old and new alike, returning to the Post for dinners and meetings. The implementation of a hybrid General Membership Meeting provides the ability for any Post 209 member to participate without being concerned with potentially being exposed to COVID-19. The hybrid implementation does add some complexity, though we will all be able to adjust and work through it.

As the Post 209 Sergeant-At-Arms, a primary duty is the maintaining of order during all Post 209 activities. With the resumption of activities at Post 209, I want to take a moment to provide a little guidance to be followed/observed during our General Membership Meeting. After reviewing The American Legion 2020 Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies, I believe that Section 2 contains some information that members of the Post, old and new alike, should be aware of during the General Membership Meeting. From my own experience, when I became a member in July 2019, this is information that would have been very helpful to know. Section 2 *Manual of Ceremonies* was adopted by The American Legion in 1921 and the first four items have been copied from this section as very important guidelines for Post 209 members to follow.

1. The ceremonial services of The American Legion must be conducted with the solemnity befitting the dignity of this organization.
2. No one shall be admitted during the opening, initiation or closing ceremonies of a meeting.
3. A member entering the hall after the meeting has begun shall advance to the center of the room, salute the colors and be seated.
4. Any member desiring to be excused from the hall while the meeting is in progress – except during a prayer, the obligation or period of silence – shall advance to the center of the room, salute the colors and leave.

The Sergeant-At-Arms is positioned at the door to facilitate an orderly entry/exit from the room once the meeting has started. If a member starts to enter during the activities identified in 2. above, he/she should stop, close the door, and wait until the door opens for them when the activity is concluded. For situations identifying with 3. and 4. above, saluting the colors from the end of the ramp and railing leading to/from the door is considered acceptable.

Another item that members need to be mindful of when attending the General Membership Meeting is that cell phones need to have their ringers off by either placing the phone on vibrate or turning it off. If a member has the need to make or take a phone call (alerted by the vibrating phone), they can follow 4. above in order to leave the room to make/take the call, then follow 3. above when they are finished. Phones are not to be answered until the member has exited

the room as this creates a disruption to the meeting and breach of respect for the person who is currently speaking.

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the Post during the next General Membership Meeting, or online if the situation warrants a member needs to attend virtually.

Joel Haas
Sergeant-At-Arms



FROM OUR POST HISTORIAN

February 1919:

A group of 20 officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces in France during WW1 is credited with founding the Legion.

February 2010:

The entire Legion Family banded together and wins \$250,000 for Operation Comfort Warriors in PepsiCo's Refresh Everything Project. We submitted the most votes in an online contest and beat out hundreds of other groups and charities to take first place in the contest's first month.

February 2021:

With COVID-19 restrictions, we have not had much we could do. We were able to open the Post back up to 50% so we have had our Post meetings, other group meetings, and dinners. The Lounge has re-opened for after dinners for anyone member to come. We have come together at the Post to put on a community outreach that will happen late February or in March.

Golf:

We are working on the Golf Tournament. The contract was signed in February to get everything in place by August 22, 2021. We are looking for players, raffle items, and sponsors. I am spearheading the tournament and can be reached at 719-505-2347 or stew.cate@gmail.com

Joel Haas
Sergeant-At-Arms



HAPPY 102ND BIRTHDAY

AMERICAN LEGION



STILL GOING STRONG!

NEAL THOMAS, JR.-CENTENNIAL POST 209 GOLF TOURNAMENT



Where? King's Deer Golf Club, Monument, CO

When? Sunday, 22 August, 2021

Time? Player Check-in 7:00 am

Shotgun Start 8:00 am

Scramble Tournament (Rules Announced Prior to Start of Play)

Cost? \$100/Person

Entry Fee includes: Green Fees, Range Balls, Golf Cart, and Awards' Luncheon.

Donations and Sponsorships Appreciated and Encouraged.

Event Coordinator, Stewart Anderson – 719 505-2347

Email: Stew.Cate@gmail.com

THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TALARC)

--- All quiet on the Western front – also the northern, eastern and southern fronts. Sure would like to hear from someone – **ANYONE!**

What will spark your interest to come out and do something fun? Your input will be greatly appreciated.



Contact Club Secretary, Harvey LeCato 331-1212 mbca@comcast.net

FROM OUR LOUNGE MANAGER

The house committee is pleased to announce the addition of a Memorial Wall! This Wall will be located upstairs in the Post museum. Everyone is welcome to submit a picture of a passed loved one to be included. To participate, please submit your favorite digital picture to me by email at cnbe89@gmail.com, along with the name you would like printed on it as well as birth and death dates respectively.

This will not cost anything to members other than the donation of a picture. The printing and frames will be provided to anyone who wishes to participate. We hope to see many pictures up on the wall soon.

Also be on the lookout for a contest to name the lounge! Details to be provided soon.

Charyse Schmidt
Lounge Manager



FROM OUR POST SERVICE OFFICER

Currently, I have reached out with assistance to 68 Veterans for the calendar year 2020 and 12 for 2021. You may not be aware, but we have a Post Veterans' Assistance Fund that was first established by our Post's namesake, Neal Thomas, Jr. As of 31 January, we have just over \$5,532 in emergency funds. That may sound like a lot of money, but it goes very quickly when used to assist Veterans for emergency support.

If you would like to donate to keep this fund going, you can mail us a check or go to our Post website at legion209.org and click on the "Donate" button. You can enter the term PVAF to ensure the donation is earmarked for this special account. Remember, we are a non-profit charity so your donation may be tax deductible. Check with your tax advisor to find out!

NPRC Veterans Service Officer (VSO)- Record Corrections Correcting Clerical Mistakes

A clerical error made on a DD Form 214 (or predecessor form) at the time of the creation of the document may be corrected by NPRC, **if evidence is found in the record or, in limited cases, if satisfactory evidence is provided. Retroactive service type awards may also be corrected based on information contained in the record.** A correction is usually made by issuing DD Form 215, not by issuing a new DD Form 214 (there are exceptions).

EXAMPLES OF ITEMS NPRC MAY CORRECT USING DD FORM 215:

- Misspelled name;
- Wrong initial(s);
- Reversed first and middle name;
- Reversed first and last name;

- Nickname cited rather than full legal name;
- Name change (if not changed after separation);
- Incorrect date of birth;
- Transposed digits of social security number or service number; and
- Information regarding medals.

Responsibility of Military Service Department

NPRC, as the physical custodian (but not the legal custodian) of military records, **is not authorized to amend** them. Amending a military record (changing substantive information) is the responsibility of the military service department creating the record.

EXAMPLES OF ITEMS THAT NPRC IS **NOT** AUTHORIZED TO CORRECT USING DD FORM 215, CORRECTION TO DD FORM 214, CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY:

- Character of service;
- Reason for separation;
- Separation authority;
- Separation code;
- Narrative reason for discharge;
- Dates of time lost;
- Reenlistment code;
- Time-in-service;
- Social security number if it differs from the one shown in the military record by other than transposed digits;
- Significant name changes if it differs from the one shown in the military record;
- Any correction that is not clearly documented in the record; and
- Any correction that may be controversial in nature.

NOTE: This information does not usually apply to “Archival” records. (A record becomes “archival” 62 years after discharge, retirement, or death in service.)

A veteran's DD 214 is a very important document for life after the military and any error(s) on it can lead to adverse effects in trying to seek future employment, Veterans Administration disability and compensation benefits. With the DD 214 being your Report of Separation, it lists such information as military education, military training and perhaps most importantly, it lists your separation information. Any mistake on your DD 214 can and should be corrected as soon as you find it by using a Form DD 149.

If you do not have access to a computer or if you need help in completing the DD 149, your local VA office will be able to give you a copy.

Fill out and complete all sections of the DD 149. Provide the best detail that you can as to why you believe there is an error(s) on your DD 214 and include any supporting documentation when mailing in your DD 149.

Mail your completed DD 149 to the appropriate mailing address which is based on which branch of the military you served in. Addresses for each of the branches of the military are listed on page 2 of the DD 149.

INSTRUCTIONS

Under Title 10 United States Code Section 1552, Active Duty and Reserve Component Service members, Coast Guard, former Service members, their lawful or legal representatives, spouses of former Service members on issues of Survivor Benefit Program (SBP) benefits, and civilian employees with respect to military records other than those related to civilian employment, who feel that they have suffered an injustice as a result of error or injustice in military records may apply to their respective Boards for Correction of Military Records (BCMR) for a correction of their military records. These Boards are the highest level appellate review authority in the military. The information collected is needed to provide the Boards the basic data needed to process and act on the request.

1. All information should be typed or printed. Complete all applicable items. If the item is not applicable, enter "None."
2. If space is insufficient on the front of the form, use the "Remarks" box below for additional information or attach an additional sheet.
3. List all attachments and enclosures in item 9. Do not send original documents. Send clear, legible copies. Send copies of military documents and orders related to your request, if you have them available. Do not assume that they are all in your military record.
4. The applicant must exhaust all administrative remedies, such as corrective procedures and appeals provided in regulations, before applying to the Board of Corrections.
5. ITEM 5. State the specific correction of record desired. If possible, identify exactly what document or information in your record you believe to be erroneous or unjust and indicate what correction you want made to the document or information.
6. ITEM 6. In order to justify correction of a military record, it is necessary for you to show to the satisfaction of the Board by the evidence that you supply, or it must otherwise satisfactorily appear in the record, that the alleged entry or omission in the record was in error or unjust. Evidence, in addition to documents, may include affidavits or signed testimony of witnesses, executed under oath, and a brief of arguments supporting the application. All evidence not already included in your record must be submitted by you. The responsibility of securing evidence rests with you.
7. ITEM 8. U.S. Code, Title 10, Section 1552b, provides that no correction may be made unless a request is made within three years after the discovery of the error or injustice, but that the Board may excuse failure to file within three years after discovery if it finds it to be in the interest of justice.
8. ITEM 10. Personal appearance before the Board by you and your witnesses or representation by counsel is not required to ensure full and impartial consideration of your application. If the Board determines that a personal appearance is warranted and grants approval, appearance and representation are permitted before the Board at no expense to the government.
9. ITEM 11. Various veterans and service organizations furnish counsel without charge. These organizations prefer that arrangements for representation be made through local posts or chapters.
10. ITEM 12. The person whose record correction is being requested must sign the application. If that person is deceased or incompetent to sign, the application may be signed by a spouse, widow, widower, next of kin (son, daughter, mother, father, brother, or sister), or a legal representative that has been given power of attorney. Other persons may be

authorized to sign for the applicant. Proof of death, incompetency, or power of attorney must accompany the application. Former spouses may apply in cases of Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) issues.

11. For detailed information on application and Board procedures, see: Army Regulation 15-185 and www.arba.army.pentagon.mil; Navy - SECNAVINST.5420.193 and www.hq.navy.mil/bcnc/bcnc.htm; Air Force Instruction 36-2603, Air Force Pamphlet 36-2607, and www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/safmrbr; Coast Guard - Code of Federal Regulations, Title 33, Part 52.

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO APPROPRIATE ADDRESS BELOW

ARMY Review Boards Agency 251 18th Street South, Suite 385 Arlington, VA 22202-3531

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS Board for Correction of Naval Records 701 S. Courthouse Road, Suite 1001 Arlington, VA 22204-2490

AIR FORCE Board for Correction of Air Force Records SAF/MRBR 550-C Street West, Suite 40 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4742

COAST GUARD Department of Homeland Security Office of the General Counsel Board for Correction of Military Records 245 Murray Lane, Stop 0485 Washington, DC 20528-0485 17.

REMARKS DD FORM 149 (BACK), DEC 2014.

AJ Carter

Post Service Officer/VA&R Committee Chairman



We all have talents and gifts, and as Legionnaires you have the opportunity to share them with not only the Post but our community as a whole. These committees are the foundation of how we work the many programs of The American Legion and their success depends on our membership. Even if you have never served on a committee please come out and give it a try, or for those who have chaired one before all are invited to come and

share their talents! Below are some of the committees and positions we are looking to fill. If you are interested, please reach out to the Chairperson or anyone on the executive committee. Don't waste your talents! Make a Difference! Get Involved!

Membership Committee:

Chaired by the Sr. Vice Commander, the Membership Committee is responsible for creating and spearheading projects/ideas to maintain and increase membership of the Post. This includes, but is not limited to, conducting a vigorous recruiting effort, such as actively supporting the Direct Mail Solicitation (DMS) campaign to obtain new members and ensuring retention.

Currently seeking the following members:

Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members

Program and Planning Committee:

Chaired by the Jr. Vice Commander, the Program and Planning Committee is responsible for planning programs for the Legion year, and preparing and submitting to the Executive Committee both short- and long-range plans for the conduct of Post activities. This includes, but

is not limited to, fundraising, securing speakers for Post meetings, and for planning Post observances of national holidays and other significant community events.

Currently seeking the following members:

Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members

Public Relations Committee:

The Public Relations Committee is responsible for promoting public interest and support of Post programs and activities through local news and social media, and assisting the publication of the Post newsletter.

Currently seeking the following members:

Chair, Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members

Welcoming Committee:

Chaired by the SGT-At-ARMS, the Welcoming Committee takes on the job at all Post-sponsored events to welcome new members, guests, or even older members who are not well acquainted, making them feel at home, and introducing them to other members.

Currently seeking the following members:

Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee:

Chaired by the Service Officer, the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee shall be responsible for assisting Post members and other veterans and their families in obtaining veterans' benefits to which they are entitled; for visiting comrades who are sick or disabled; and for keeping the membership informed on veterans' benefits available.

Currently seeking the following members:

Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members

Americanism and Youth Committee:

The Americanism and Youth Committee is responsible for inspiring patriotism and good citizenship through patriotic observances, patriotic and civic instruction in schools, and similar activities. This committee shall also be responsible for Post participation in such Legion programs as Boy's State, Oratorical contests, and other Americanism.

Currently seeking the following members:

Chair, Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members

Fundraising Committee:

The Fundraising Committee is responsible for all the major fundraising activities of the Post to include corporate sponsors, in-kind gifts, fundraising events, and any other ways to raise fund to support the programs and operations of the Post.

Currently seeking the following members:

Chair, Vice Chair, 2-3 committee members



GAME NIGHT

START AT

♠ 6 PM ♠

★ EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY ★

AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

GAME NIGHT IS A MONTHLY FUNDRAISER FOR AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209. POST MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ONLY. GAME(S) TO BE PLAYED TBD.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



WALK OF HONOR

Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

We are re-introducing an exciting fundraiser for our Post. 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 engraving uses the same technology as used on tombstones so it's extremely durable. Here are some FAQs:



- **What Are We Having?** A Brick Fundraising Event
- **Why?** To Further Funding of our American Legion Programs
- **What Size Are the Bricks?** 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 vary depending on size, style and lettering desired, but typically range from \$75 to \$200. 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?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$125 to \$500.
- **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?** We have a link on our website. Just visit legion209.org and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is 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

Elementary, Junior High, and High Schools have certainly changed since I was a student for those 12, almost 13 years attending a Memphis City School. Back in the day (a term used to represent the “good ole days” such as the Dark Ages) we learned things like Civics, Geography, Typing, and Cursive as required subjects. It is hard to find a school anywhere in the country that still offers these classes. And in Tennessee, we also had to take Tennessee History. I believe at that time, many schools around the country required at least one semester to learn the history of their respective state.

While visiting friends and relatives over the Christmas holiday in Tennessee and Mississippi (two states in the south), we had an opportunity to spend some time with an extremely bright high schooler. While she was very astute with computers and software, and especially the various popular social media sites, she didn’t fare too well with what I thought was basic education subjects.

We played a game related to state’s capitals. She didn’t know any of them. Not a one. Not even the capital of the state in which she lived.

She was given a card with a special greeting and message and couldn’t read it because it was written in cursive. The subject was not taught in her school. I have learned it is not taught in most schools across the country. Apparently, it is not important any longer. You don’t need to write in cursive when all you do is punch a key on a keypad or keyboard. And she had absolutely no clue about our nation’s government and how it is designed to work. Even the basics of our Congressional makeup was foreign to her.

I guess I’m a little torn in how I feel about most of this. Thinking back on those subjects in school, my overall grades would have been much better if I didn’t have to recite all the state capitals. And not having to remember the three Branches of our Government and what they are designed to do would have freed up my after-school homework hours. Okay, that last part wasn’t completely true. I didn’t spend an inordinate amount of time after school doing homework. I was supposed to, but it seemed other things kept getting in the way. While it wasn’t Facebook or Snapchat, it was hanging out with my buds or spending time working on my car, or just working.

I learned the hard way this was not a good plan. Back in the day if you didn’t do the work, you flunked. You either spent the next year in the same grade, or you went to Summer School. This was a very painful lesson, but one I learned and never repeated (pun intended). You learned the lessons; they didn’t “dumb it down” so you could learn. You stepped up and did what you had to do to pass. Most of the time that meant studying when your friends were out having a good time.

In many schools today, if you don’t learn the lessons, you still advance to the next grade. If at the end of your senior year you still haven’t learned, you get a Certificate of Completion. Back in the day (there I go again using that antiquated term) if you didn’t learn, you didn’t graduate. We didn’t have Certificates of Completion. We had diplomas, and they were only given to you if you successfully passed all your classes and achieved enough points or credits to pass. Your options were; get a diploma, stay in the 12th grade until you did, or drop out. And for many of us, that last option was not an option.

But when you did finally get that diploma, you actually felt like you accomplished something important. And you did!

In some respects, the kids today are learning some very cool things that I would have a very hard time learning. But they have lost some very important subjects and lessons that should be resurrected. They need to be able to fail in order to appreciate success. And they need to know the capital of Texas is Austin.

Jay Bowen

Past Post Commander



March 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	5 Price Varies w/Menu Hamdogger 6:00pm 	6 VFW Post 4051 Mtg 8:00am
7	8 Int'l. Women's Day	9	10 Game Night! 5:30pm	11	12 \$10.00 Meal Aux. Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	13 Membership Meeting B'fast-9am/Mtg 10 House Cmtee 2:00pm  
14 Daylight Saving Begins	15 Happy 102nd Birthday to The American Legion!	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19 \$10.00 Meal Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	20 Start of Spring Marine Corps League 7:00am
21	22	23 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	24	25	26 \$10.00 Meal Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	27 Healing Warriors 9:00-1:00
28	29	30	31	Notes:		

April Events of Note:

Elections! – 10 April during our monthly Post Meeting

Tax Day! – 15 April