

# The Centennial



VOLUME 27 EDITION 3                      MARCH 2012  
Mail: P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80936-5334  
Post: 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, Co 80917-8002,  
Telephone 719-599-8624  
Email: [centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com](mailto:centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com)  
Web site [www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org](http://www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org)



## From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

I believe it is a common perception that everyone has common knowledge or common sense. But I would suggest to you that there is no such thing as either!

If you look the word “common” up in your Webster’s Dictionary (or [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) for those not still living in the Jurassic period), you will discover one of the definitions is “widespread; general; ordinary: common knowledge.”

How many times during any daily conversation have you heard (or even said), “Oh, it’s common knowledge that he ...” Or, “That’s just common sense.” Folks, I’m telling you those two terms are as nonexistent as the Easter Bunny or someone from the Government that’s here to help you. In order for either to exist, it implies it is something all or most of us possess and it doesn’t take a Mensa member to know that ain’t true! About the time I start doubting this theory and think that maybe I’m being a little cynical, I pick up a newspaper or turn on the television and find out someone has done something so stupid it defies logic. For example, most of us learned at a very young age not to mess around with electricity. But just a few weeks ago, two geniuses were electrocuted trying to steal copper ground wires from a high voltage cable...that was connected on one end to a power source. If common sense really existed these guys would be melting pennies today to get their copper and then they could sell it for a half cent each. And isn’t it really common knowledge that New Mexico is one of our 50 US States? Not to several hundred college students recently polled. They identified it as a regional territory in the country of Mexico. Some even thought it was Mexico!



And don’t get me started on those redneck geniuses that upon hearing a tornado just touched down in their community, the first thing they did was grab a lawn chair and a six-pack (I know you’ve heard the jokes, but folks I am a redneck and I would love to tell you I’ve never done this with some of my closest bubbas, but it would be a lie) and head to front door to watch. It’s common knowledge that in a tornado you should find a ditch or hole to crawl into and wait out the storm, but it would take common sense to know to do that.

We could all go on forever citing anecdotal examples refuting evidence that common sense and common knowledge ever existed, but common courtesy forbids me from wasting any more energy and ink discussing it. So I will show some common decency and end this month’s editorial.

For God and Country,  
Jay

## Something New!

As we’ve recently mentioned, we plan to offer some new stuff and different things in “The Centennial” from time to time. This month we are featuring a comic strip, created by Mario Taracena. Let us know how you like it, and anything else you see in this newsletter.

It is our desire to make this publication something you enjoy reading and look forward to receiving each month. We not only welcome new ideas, we encourage any and all suggestions to improve our monthly offering.

Send us a note or catch us at one of our monthly events and give us some feedback.



## Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

Keeping our fingers crossed has worked because another of our visitors, Marilyn Canitz, from our January meeting has joined our Unit. We also would like to welcome Janet Schwarzbart and Marquel Preussner. Janet is the daughter of Ken Taylor and Ken is a dual member of the Legion and SAL. Marquel transferred from Unit 38. Ladies, it is a pleasure to have you join us. I would like to thank Dee Claridy for visiting with us during our last meeting.

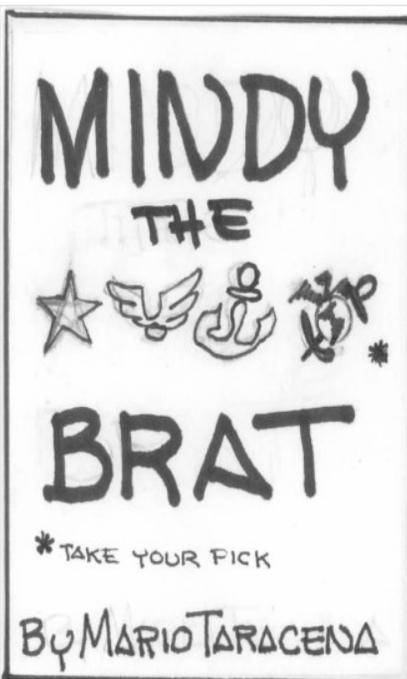
It's time again to nominate and elect new officers. Ladies, please don't feel you are not qualified to hold an officer position. We learn from doing. While experience is nice to have, it's not necessary and we have some experienced officers that would be more than willing to help as you learn. The offices 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 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.

For those of you that don't know, we are having our first member Initiation our Unit has participated in

first initiation since I've joined the Unit. The ceremony is March 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. Please join us in honoring our members. Dress ranges from casual to dressy.

We are beginning our push for Girls State. If you would like more information please contact Pam Krzczowski at [krzecz@msn.com](mailto:krzecz@msn.com), 719-282-1380 or Linda O'Riley at 719-597-5673 or [elv-is.2178@yahoo.com](mailto:elv-is.2178@yahoo.com). The full sponsorship for one delegate is \$300. We ask the delegates to pay \$150 of their sponsorship and then we pay the other \$150 from monies received from donations. Donations can be any amount from \$1 to the full \$150. If you would like to help sponsor or know of someone that would like to sponsor, please contact Pam or Linda. The more sponsors we have, the more young ladies we can send. "Colorado Columbine Girls State is a program of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Colorado. With a history dating back over 60 years, the program is a hands-on training session in local and state government, voting, the legislative process, patriotism and the rights and duties of all citizens of the United States." You may also visit [www.coloradocolumbinegirlsstate.com](http://www.coloradocolumbinegirlsstate.com) and see some examples of the events that take place at Girls State each year.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,  
Jackie Bowen





## Post Officers 2011-2012

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Sr. Vice Cdr	Mark Krzczowski	719-282-1380
Jr. Vice Cdr	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Adjutant	Larry Johnson	719-622-0344
Finance Officer	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Chaplain	Chet Dean	719-244-2442
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Mario Taracena	719-495-0363
Post Executive Committee member	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Service Officer	John Brown	719-331-8160
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Past Commander	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610

Post Email: [centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com](mailto:centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com)

Web Site: [www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org](http://www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org)



## Auxiliary Officers 2010-2011

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Linda O'Riley	719-597-5673
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555
Sergeant-AT-Arms	Lois Wooton	719-599-8683



## Board of Trustees 2011-2012

Term (Years)	Name	Telephone
President (1 yr)	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Commander (1 yr)	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Finance Officer (1 yr)	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Member 1 Yr	Larry Johnson	719-322-0644
Member 1 Yr	Alton Cyriaque	719-495-4732
Member 3 yr	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Member 3 yr	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088



## Son's of The American Legion 2011-2012

Commander	Frank Maellaro Sr.
Adjutant	Frank Anderson
Finance Officer	Ken Taylor
Chaplain	Chet Dean



## Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events

1 Mar	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm
2 Mar	Hamdogger Wingding Nite 6:30pm
10 Mar	No Breakfast or Meeting New Member Initiation 4:00pm American Legion Birthday Dinner 6:00pm Gun Show Membership Booth
16 Mar	Steak Night 6:30pm
23 Mar	Fish Fry 6:30pm
5 Apr	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm
6 Apr	Hamdogger Wingding Nite 6:30pm
7 Apr	Easter Egg Hunt 2:00pm
14 Apr	Breakfast 9:00am Meeting at 10:00am ELECTION OF OFFICERS
20 Apr	Steak Night 6:30 pm
27 Apr	Fish Fry at 6:30 pm
3 May	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm
4 May	Hamdogger Wingding Nite 6:30pm
12 May	No Breakfast No Meeting Installation of Officers Banquet 6:00pm
18 May	Steak Night 6:30pm
25 May	Fish Fry 6:30pm



You are invited to The American Legion Birthday Party. We will celebrate the event on 10 March at 6:00pm with a dinner. The menu will consist of Chicken Fried Steak and the fixings. The cost for this dinner is \$10.00 per person. Please make reservation by calling Jackie at 574-1223 or Lynn at 439-6268. We invite everyone to come out and help us celebrate the birthday of The American Legion. Hope to see you there.

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Mario Taracena

This is it. This is the 57<sup>th</sup> event that takes place every four years. We will choose a President on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Are you registered to vote?

Whether you are a member of a political party or unaffiliated, take this great opportunity to exercise your civic responsibilities and duties to the country. Remember that the power of the United States of America comes from you. We have a system of government based on voting and the principle of majority decision making. We cherish our freedoms and rights because they limit the powers of government and allow us to elect our representatives. Take a look at the daily news and you will see people in different parts of the world fighting and dying for the right to own their destiny. Take a walk through our history and be thankful for what we have in America.

As the political process evolves in the coming months, learn about the issues and challenges facing the nation. Get informed and exchange your opinions and concerns with others. Have fun and enjoy yourself. Study the presidential candidates and their views, values and their plans for continuing and expanding America's greatness. To help you make the right choice, search your soul. Ask for Divine guidance and inspiration. Then at the proper time and place **CAST YOUR VOTE. IT COUNTS!**

### THOUGHTS FOR THIS MONTH:

March is a unique month. We celebrate the National Irish American Heritage, National Anthem Day and The Employee Appreciation Day. It also brings snowy, cold and gloomy days. Now would be a good opportunity to write a journal of your military experiences and send a favorite story to the Centennial. If something is bugging you, develop a positive attitude. So much in life depends on your attitude. The way you choose to see things and respond to others makes all the difference. Do the best you can and then choose to be happy about your circumstances, whatever they may be. This will bring peace and contentment. Visit Psalm 23.



## Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Frank Maellaro

On 24 March, The Detachment of Colorado will be conducting a training session on what the Son's of The American Legion are, it's programs and activities and will be available to answer questions that you may have. The training/information session will take place from 1:00pm to around 3:00pm.

I would encourage all who joined the SAL and anyone else who wants to know more about the Organization to attend.



We have little piggy banks (such as the one shown above) on the tables at all events that are held at the Post. Money collected in the banks will be used to support our largest nationwide project; the Child Welfare Foundation. If you see them **PLEASE** donate your spare change to a very good cause.

We are actively working on our membership for 2012. We are sitting at 76% of our goal. We need your help. If you have not renewed your 2012 dues, please take a moment and write a check or money order to Squadron 209 for \$20.00 and mail it to American Legion Post 209, PO Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80936. or if you prefer, you can also go to the American Legion webpage at [www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org](http://www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org) and renew your membership using PayPal.

I would like to see more of our members at our SAL meetings, which are held on the 2nd Saturday of every month at 9:00am. You can find out first hand what the SAL is doing to support the Post and community. So come on out, have a great breakfast and support your Post, the SAL and the Veterans in our community.

Hope to see you there.

Thank you



### From the Chef Art Kimbrel

You continue to amaze me at the growth in the events that are done at the Post. I hope you will continue to support the dinners, but I would also ask that you **MAKE RESERVATIONS** ahead of time so we ensure there is enough food to go around. I purchase the portions about three days before the events and base the amount of ingredients by the number who have made a reservation.

If you are interested in having a party, meeting or function, please remember that as a member of the American Legion family you get a reduced price for the rental of the hall.

Hope to see all of you soon.



### Initiation of New Members Saturday, 10 March 4:00 PM

The Initiation of new members as indicated above will be conducted Saturday, 10 March at 4:00pm. This is an impressive ceremony for those Legionnaires who have never been initiated. It is a ceremony open to family members who would like to see what the American Legion is about and get an explanation of the American Legion emblem.

If you want to participate, make reservations before 5 March by calling Jackie at 719-574-1223 or Lynn at 719-439-6268 so we can ensure that we have the required materials needed to conduct the initiation.

### UMBRELLA SALES

The word has gotten out about our latest fund raiser; the **UMBRELLA** pictured to the right. We are selling them for \$15 each. Features include:



Drip Free system to prevent water from getting on the floors and carpets.

Clear panel for easy visibility.

The money we make will assist local area Veterans and Auxiliary programs.



### From the Chaplain Chet Dean

If you or your loved one is in need of a Chaplain, please feel free to call the following phone numbers at any time Day or Night.

Chaplain Chet Dean 719-244-2442  
Assistant Chaplain Michael Stebick 719—351-2574

### Nomination Committee 2012



This is not only an election year for the Nation, it is also that time of the year in which we will be electing new Post officers.

Past Post Commander, Bill Marshall has once again been asked to chair the Nomination Committee and he has accepted.

The Post is looking for Legionnaires, young and young at heart, willing to learn about the American Legion, its programs and activities, and also have a vision with new ideas and the time to bring the Post further in the future.

If you are interested, please contact Bill Marshall at 719-495-0088 or give the Post a call at 719-599-8624 and leave a message. We encourage self-nomination for any Post position.

As a point of interest, most positions are open for new officers. Don't be shy, now is the time to come forward. All but two positions are elected. The Judge Advocate and Service Officer positions are appointed by the Commander.

In addition to the elections of officers, the Post is looking for Legionnaires who would be willing to serve on the various committees needed to keep the Post moving forward. For officer and/or committee descriptions please go to the Post's webpage at [www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org](http://www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org) and take a look and let us know what you think. Or talk to any of the current officers about what they do.



## Reminisces from the Past Ken Taylor

Children's heroes of today are quite different from the heroes I knew as a young boy growing up in the 50's. Today's heroes include rock stars, actors, actresses and others who seem to deliver the wrong message or no message at all. Not all of course, but far too many.

My heroes included Roy Rogers, The Lone Ranger and other stars of the day. They always presented a positive message. That message was that if you do your job and do what is right, good things will always happen in the end.

This brings me to my Father. I knew he had been in the Army during WWII, so I continually pressed him for stories about his war experiences. He, like so many others however, was reluctant to talk about the War. He just wanted to put it behind him and go on with life. Finally I got him to tell me of one experience he had while overseas. This happened in Italy in early 1945. It could have been at Mt. Belvedere or Mt. Della Torraccia, but he wasn't sure.

Word had come down from the front that a counter-attack was expected and they were desperately short of machine gun ammunition. In those days, pack mules were used in the mountains to carry whatever was needed to the front. My father was chosen for the job because his was the only mule they believed could carry the load to the front line. He set off and led the ammunition loaded mule as far as it could go up the mountain. He was still short of the front line and the mule could go no farther. At that point, he took all that he could carry off the mule's back and continued his climb to the top. In places it became so steep that he would rest his load against a tree to keep from falling over backwards. He finally reached the top and his only comment was, "Those infantry boys sure cheered when I rolled into their foxhole with all that ammunition."

I said "Wow Dad, that makes you a hero. Did you get a medal?" He just laughed and said, "No, we were just soldier boys who had a job to do and we did it as best we could." I think those cheers were worth far more to him than any medal would have been.

He didn't think he was a hero but I sure do. He did what was right, did his job and was successful in the end. It's been said many times before but I'll say it again. He and all those who have worn the uniform or those who wear the uniform today are the REAL HEROES.

My father was Corporal Roy Taylor of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Quartermaster Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. He was with the Division through the rest of the campaign into the Po Valley and on until the end of the war.

Ken Taylor



## From Scouts and Service Officer John Brown

### Scouts:

Pine wood derby is coming up for both packs. Pack 24's is this month and Pack 386's is in April. Both Packs have completed their Blue and Gold dinners, celebrating the birthday of scouting in America.

### Service: Good Question:

Q. I'm a Veteran, but I don't have a military ID card. Can I get a VA-issued photo ID card for use at retail stores offering Veteran discounts?

A. Probably not. The VA issues the Veteran Identification Cards for use at VA medical facilities to identify and check in Veterans for appointments. Only Veterans who are eligible for VA medical benefits will receive the card. The card cannot be used as a credit card or an insurance card, and it does not authorize payment for care at non-VA facilities.

The card displays the Veteran's name, picture, and special eligibility indicators – such as Service connected, Purple Heart, or POW, if applicable – on the front of the card. Those Veterans who have a card might find it useful for identification purposes, though it no longer displays the Veteran's Social Security number or date of birth on the front of the card. Download a publication at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility/library/pubs/vic](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/library/pubs/vic) to learn more.

Taken from *Military Officer* Feb 2012

John Brown  
Service Officer Post 209

## The American Legion Birthday and How I Met a Founding Member-Neal L. Thomas Jr.

This month we pause to celebrate the 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday of The American Legion. Each year at this time I reflect on the honor and privilege of having known one of those pioneers who formed this organization. In 1985, while serving as consultant on The American Legion Magazine Commission I was introduced to a founding member of the organization. The gentleman's name was Hamilton Fish. He was 95 years of age and was wearing a red legion cap.

I was very proud to have met him and decided to do some research on his background with The American Legion. During my research I found that he had served in WWI as a Company Commander of an all black New York unit in France. He was also in attendance at the Paris Caucus and attended the St Louis Caucus, which met prior to the first National Convention. I also found out that he and Judge George N. Davis of Oregon and John C. Greenway from Arizona collaborated to write the Preamble to our constitution, which we recite before each meeting. This preamble has only been changed by one word - -The word "War" was changed to "Wars" in 1942 when WWII veterans were admitted as members.

Hamilton Fish was elected as a New York Congressman and served from 1920-1945. He was an outstanding orator and always drew an attentive audience whenever he spoke. Although he was never elected National Commander, he received an Honorary Past National Commander honor at the 1979 National Convention. Over the years I always visited with him whenever we were in the same area. Although he was restricted to a wheelchair he was still the life of the party.

In 1989 he decided to marry his caregiver/attendant who was considerably younger than he. I was invited to the wedding and attended. This wedding was the social highlight of the year in the Denver area. The bride was the daughter of Temple Buell and the wedding was held at the Buell Estate in Denver. The Buell family founded the Buell Theater located in the Fine Arts Center of Denver. Temple Buell gave his daughter away at the wedding. Past National Commander Hamilton Fish passed away one year later at the age of 101 and I always remember him at this time of the year.



## From the Junior Vice Commander Lyle Hagelberg

Don't forget to make your reservations for the Initiation of new members and the American Legion Birthday Dinner on 10 March beginning at 4:00pm.

Make your reservation by calling Jackie at 574-1223 or Lynn at 439-6268 and let us know how many will be in your party.

### Fish Fry Friday

The fish fry had to be moved from the 2nd Friday to the 4th Friday due to circumstances such as no help, and to many activities spaced so close together. The success of this dinner has proven that it was wanted by the membership. This is based upon the turnout for the dinner. Please remember that the fish fry has been moved to the 4th Friday of every month at 6:30pm of every month. Make your reservations, and I'll see you there.

We would like everyone to please make a reservation by calling Jackie Bowen at 719-574-1223 or Lynn

### RSVP Special

Make an advance reservation for the Steak night on 16 March and receive a special discount. With advance reservations & the coupon on this page, you get a steak at the regular price of \$12.00 and the second for a price of \$10.00.

You can contact Jackie at (719) 574-1223 home, or [jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com). Lynn's contact number is (719) 439-6268. Present the coupon with your order.

**STEAK/FAMILY  
NIGHT COUPON!**

Buy 1 Dinner at Regular Price, get the 2<sup>nd</sup> One at \$2 Off!

Good only during the month of March and with a reservation made in advance.

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

