

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Mike Barger



As always, I'd like to start off by acknowledging all those that have stepped up this last month and volunteered their time to the Post. That includes people from the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders. A big thank you from myself and the executive board goes out to you all. A good time was had by all that came out and enjoyed an enchilada dinner and comedy show on February 24th. We look forward to doing another Post fund-raiser in the second quarter of this year. If you have any ideas on what you think will help bring in money, please bring them forward.

A little history for this month. March 15th, the designated birthday of The American Legion, is the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. Much as the birthday of the U.S. is celebrated on July 4th for the day in 1776 when revolting patriots declared their independence of the British colonies and the spirit of America was born, March 15 is the date on which the Legion came to life. The organization was chartered in September and held its first convention in Minneapolis in November 1919. Happy birthday Legionnaires. On March 30th, 1981, Ronald Reagan, the 40th President of the U.S., was shot in the chest while walking to his limo in Washington DC. On March 17th, 2003, President George W Bush issued an ultimatum to President Saddam Hussein and his family to leave Iraq within 48 hours or face military action, then on March 19th, President Bush announced U.S. and coalition forces had begun military action against Iraq, now known as Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As always, continue to work the membership drive, by either selling the Legion to Veterans who aren't members yet, or by getting those that are members, but haven't renewed their dues for 2017. A big thank you to those that helped with DMS this year, for we had over 108 transfers within District 7, and of those transfers, Post 209 had 60 of them transfer to our Post alone. Did you know, that in just the first year that the American Legion was in existence, it had more than 843,000 dues paying members? Today, we're around 2.4 million members, and if each of us just got one eligible member to sign up, we would have more members than ever before.

At the general membership meeting in February, a Resolution was presented and read to develop a Colorado American Legion College at the Department level. Colorado is only awarded 1 maybe 2 slots each year at the National level, and with so many folks interested in going, it would be beneficial for Department to offer this. Colorado would join the ranks of other states offering this at the Department level. The Resolution was approved by the members in attendance and it was sent up to District for a vote at their Convention in May. Thanks to our Post Executive Committeeman Greg Smith for writing this Resolution.

As a reminder to you all, elections will be held in April at the General Membership meeting on April 8th. **ALL** positions are available, so please consider running. Everyone has great ideas and visions on what they think will keep this Post moving forward and continuing our resolve to help Veterans here in our community. Please contact Bill Byrd (advisor1colo@yahoo.com) and let him know what position you're interested in running for, and make sure you send Marvin Weaver, Jr. our Post Adjutant an email with a letter of intent, so that way if you're not present the day of the elections, your letter of intent will let us know you are willing to accept the position if your elected. Don't limit yourself to just one position. Put your name in for multiple, that way if you don't get one, you may get another.

As always, if you know anyone that's in need of dental work, and they don't have dental insurance, Post 209 has partnered with Pikes Peak Strategic Group to offer Discount Dental Plan. For every new person we get signed up to do this, the Post makes \$9.98 for the basic plan and \$15.98 for the Deluxe Plan. More information can be found on this on our website legion209.org/ameriplan.



From the Unit 209 President

Cathy Barger

We're beginning our Butter Braid fundraiser this month. **PLEASE** ask your families, friends, and neighbors if they'd like to purchase a Butter Braid. If you need an order form or would like to place an order you can contact Jackie Bowen at jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or 719-574-1223. We'll also be taking orders at all the monthly dinners.

Our next meeting, is March 11th at 10am. Plan on coming down and enjoy a warm breakfast before the meeting starts. Breakfast begins at 9am. Remember to look at the calendar for the various dinners that the Post hosts. It is a great time with great food and great friends!

The month of April will be a busy month and before you know it, it will be here, and that means elections. If you're interested in running for an officer position, please contact Cathy Barger@catbarger@comcast.net or 719-290-3163. You don't need any experience, we just need you to step up and help. We won't allow you to fail. Elections will be held at our monthly meeting on April 8th.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held this year on **SUNDAY**, April 9th from 3 to 5pm. This is open to Post members and their families only. If you're able to help or have questions, please contact Cathy Barger or Kellie Hayes @ 719-494-7167 or hayeskelliej@yahoo.com .

Also in April we have 2 homecoming events happening at the Post. April 15th will be Department Commander Jay Bowen's homecoming, with social hour beginning at 5pm, dinner at 6pm and entertainment at 7pm. April 29th will be Department Auxiliary President Evelyn Espinola's homecoming, with social hour at 5 pm, dinner at 6 pm and entertainment at 7pm. Volunteers will be needed to help setup, cleanup and cook for both events. We need your help, so please contact Kellie Hayes or myself so that we can get you signed up!

Our Riders decided to discontinue doing dinners every month, so the Auxiliary has stepped up to host dinner every other month. If you can help in any way, please contact me so that we can get you signed up! We're looking for ideas on what to cook, so please speak up and let us know what you'd like to see served. We didn't want to see a Friday night dinner go away, and it's a perfect opportunity for Auxiliary to earn more money. We are also heading into Girls State season. Kellie Hayes has graciously offered to chair our Girls State Committee again this year and already has a couple of applications. We will be doing interviews for those young ladies, soon. If you would like to sponsor a girl for Girl State, please contact Kellie.

We're still looking for recipes for our Auxiliary Cookbook. Please send in your recipes to Kellie Hayes.

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

Amanda Baldwin, Jackie Bowen, Sandra Carr, Lori Hardy, Josie Hartley, Kellie Hayes, Mary Jenkins, Nancy LaFayette, Christine Long-Klinedinst, Sarah Paton, Shelly Smith, Sherryl Surrena, Kaycee Velie, Brenda Wash, Patricia Weaver, Debbie Jenise Westrom. Wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!



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



Auxiliary fundraiser time again! Starting March 3rd, Butter Braids go on sale. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Orders must be made no later than April 8th. Delivery date is April 12th. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$13.00 per Butter Braid and payment must be made before the delivery date. Call Jackie Bowen, (719) 574-1223, to place an order over the phone and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment when you call. Thanks for supporting your Auxiliary.

FLAVORS:

Caramel Rolls (9 rolls), Cherry, Apple, Blueberry, Cinnamon, and Strawberry and Cream Cheese.



Motorcycle Minute

Steve Hayes; Vice President

ALR 209 is looking forward to another great year! Elections were held in January and the new slate of officers began their term this month. Our thanks to our departing officers Andy Gilbert, Mike Barger, Lino Calica, Dan Jean and Larry Johnson, who have helped lead ALR 209 since the start. Andy served nearly three years as President while Mike was the initial road captain, then served two terms as Vice President. Lino has served as our Sergeant at Arms, Larry as Communication, and Dan Jean as Historian for multiple terms. ALR 209 is recognized throughout the area, providing significant service and needed funds to Veteran's causes throughout Southern Colorado. This could not have been accomplished without dedicated and passionate leadership. Thank you all for your service!

Our thanks to all of the officers who stepped up to serve for the coming year:

President: Bob Caddell (new)

Vice President: Steve Hayes (new)

Secretary: Cathy Barger (returning)

Treasurer: Rusty Bower (returning)

Road Captain: Grady Mitchell (returning)

Sergeant-At-Arms: Tim McDowell (new)

Chaplain: John Coppedge (returning)

Communications: Chris Earley (new)

Don't forget to support the Bikers Ball, Saturday March 4th, 6pm at Post 209. These funds benefit McCandless Veterans Home throughout the year and we are honored to host this event for the first time. You do not have to be a Biker to go – this is open to the Legion family (adults only). Cost is \$20 per person/\$30 per couple and includes dinner and DJ entertainment. There are a TON of really cool raffle and live auction items, including another fire pit, an awesome plasma cut steel wall piece and much, much more. Contact Mike 719-290-3218 if you need more information.

We will finalize the ride schedule for the year before the end of the month. Look for it on the website and Facebook page as soon as we do. We ride for those who can't!



From the Desk of

Bob Caddell; Jr. Vice Commander

Wow has time flown by. I want to thank everyone for allowing me to be the Jr. Vice Commander for American Legion Post 209. As I reflect back on my service for the past year I have fond memories of meetings, speakers and events that I participated in.

I will not be running for this position in the next election as I have been elected to the position of President of the American Legion Riders for Post 209.

When I joined the Post back in 2014 I knew I wanted to serve, to give something back. I had no Idea it would lead to where I have ended up. I hope I have honored the position in the eyes of fellow Legionnaires. I will be dedicating my time and efforts to bolstering and expanding the well recognized ALR 209 in our community.

The Riders have many events scheduled each year and all the funds raised are for the Veterans of the Pikes Peak region. Every Veteran motorcycle group in the area is dedicated to our Veterans. The most involved event is the Homeless Veterans Stand down in October. I participated in my first Stand Down last year and that gave me more incentive to get more involved. It's not just the Riders for our Post, I want to make sure that the membership knows the Sons and most importantly the Auxiliary are involved with the Stand Down. Kudos to all who are giving back.

As I venture into new and uncharted territory, I will try to honor and uphold the memories of the individuals that have come before me. I'm looking forward to leading the Riders to magnificent achievements in the coming year. P.S. thanks Steve Hayes for taking the position of VP. We're going to crush it.

Elections Are Coming!

The election of Post Officers is coming soon and all members are encouraged to participate. Please contact the nominating chairman, Bill Burd, if you are interested in running for any position. He can be reached at 719-330-1279 or email advisor1colo@yahoo.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 nomination, with the exception of the Service Officer and Judge Advocate, which are appointed by the Commander-elect and approved by the Post Executive Committee. We will also vote on a Board of Trustees position during the April meeting.

Roles and Responsibilities of Officers Quick Overview

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.



DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE FROM THE VA? Help has Arrived



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

Where? Centennial Post 209 at 3613 Jeannine Drive.

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

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

FAQ:

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

No. We Will Offer Assistance to Any Qualified Veteran.

Do I need an Appointment?

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

What Do I Bring?

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



Tell your Veteran Friends and Neighbors!





Junior Shooting Sports Update Ken Taylor, Chairman



Young Guns Junior Shooting Sports began a new semester on February 8th, 2017 at American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209. Rusty Bower introduced Post 209 Commander Mike Barger, who gave a brief introduction to Junior Shooting at the Post. Rusty then proceeded with general housekeeping items for the next 9 weeks of classes. Students were asked to read aloud the Safety Pledge, and sign their names to it. Then there was a general introduction to the equipment shooters commonly use in air rifle shooting sports.

Bill Weeks followed with an in-depth safety class, which included the 3 cardinal principles of safety: Keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction at all times; Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot; and Keep the gun unloaded until you are ready to shoot. Also in Bill's briefing were the basic safety commands used by the Safety Instructor at the firing line.

Lastly, Jesse Wade introduced the students to the parts and components of the air rifles used in this class, and their proper use.



From Squadron 209 Commander Ken Taylor

On December 20, 2016, SAL Squadron 209 presented Josh Dogs to two Hospitals in Colorado Springs. The first stop was at St. Francis where we presented Josh gift sets to the parents of several small children. Those present were Commander Ken Taylor, Adjutant Steve Wolford, Sgt. at Arms Steve Cox and Post member Bill Burd. It's very heartwarming to see the smiles from both children and parents!



ST. Francis Hospital

Josh and his friends made a second stop. This time it was at Memorial Hospital on Boulder. SAL Chaplain Christopher Keith and the Child Life Specialists were there to receive the Josh kits. Chaplain Christopher shared two stories with us as told below.

Memorial Hospital

A mother of two young children is undergoing extensive chemo therapy treatments and has had a difficult time describing being in a hospital, away from them. I gave her a Josh Dog kit. As we read the book together, she cried. She said she was so grateful for such a well written book explaining being in the hospital. She has since shared the book and the dog with her kids. They take turns holding "Josh" and are very diligent in taking care of him while mom is in the hospital. She said the Josh Dogs are the best thing she could ever imagine.

Marcus needed emergency surgery for an infected appendix. At seven, he was old enough to know what was happening and was extremely terrified. The surgeon, who was meeting with the patient and his parents asked if he liked dogs. He said he did, but couldn't have one since they moved to Ft. Carson and live in an apartment. He offered a Josh dog, and thankfully, a Child Life specialist was available to retrieve one and bring it down to the pre-op-surgery area. The doctor allowed the dog to go to surgery with the patient. After he was under anesthetic, the dog was taken out and volunteers "doctored" up Josh to match the same incision and bandage areas that Marcus would have. After surgery, Marcus woke up, and immediately asked about his new dog. Josh was wheeled in and allowed to lay in recovery with him. Together they both made a quick and full recovery. Happily, all bandages came off, (fur intact) with only an ink scar on Josh and a smaller real scar on Marcus. Marcus told me a few weeks later when he came back to say thanks to the staff that "scars are cool, and we both have one!"

SAL memberships expired December 31, 2016. Our goal is 101 members and we are currently at 77 which includes renewals and a few new memberships. If you haven't renewed, please renew now to keep your membership current and help us continue our successful programs. The dues are \$20 for those who are 18 and older, or just \$10 for members under 18.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



WALK OF HONOR

Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

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

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

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



From the Judge Advocate
Larry Johnson

Last year at a Post Executive Committee Meeting I let my mouth overrun my brain and nothing came out the way it was suppose to.

What I was trying to say is that this Post would be out in the public's eye for at least 44 days and 15 times in 12 months. The dates listed below are some dates that have come and gone and a lot of dates that are coming up that the Gun Show Committee is out there selling tickets on the various raffles that the Post puts on all year. When you add the other Committees such as the Honor Guard, The Rifle Team, the Americanism Committee and others that are representing the Post at Public Relations/PR events, it gets Post 209 out in the community several times throughout the year. In my opinion, we really need to do a better job getting the names of the Committees out to the public and getting pictures of the events.

HOME LANDSCAPING SHOW; 20,21,22 JANUARY
RV SHOW; 2,3,4 FEBRUARY
BOAT SHOW; 17,18,19 FEBRUARY
OUTDOOR LIVING SHOW; 31 MARCH, 1,2 APRIL
PET EXPO; 21,22,23 MARCH
RV SHOW; DATES NOT YET PUBLISHED
SUGAR PLUM FESTIVAL; DATES NOT YET PUBLISHED
COLORADO SPRINGS GUN SHOW; 24,25,26 FEBRUARY
COLORADO SPRINGS GUN SHOW; 5,6,7 MAY
COLORADO SPRINGS GUN SHOW; 11,12,13 AUGUST
COLORADO SPRINGS GUN SHOW; 27,28,29 OCTOBER
SERTOMA GUN SHOW; 23,24,25,26 MARCH
SERTOMA GUN SHOW; 6,7,8,9 JULY
SERTOMA GUN SHOW; 15,16,17 SEPTEMBER
SERTOMA GUN SHOW; 24,25,27 NOVEMBER

If you think that you could donate some time and would like to help with the events listed above, please contact Larry Johnson at 719-930-0232 or email at legionnairelarry@yahoo.com. Even if you only have an hour or two, we sure could use the help. And remember, volunteers get free access to the shows.



From the Adjutant
Marvin Weaver, Jr.

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

District 7 Convention will be on May 7th here at Post 38 starting at 11am. We will have officers from Department to give updates on what is going on across the State. We will also be having election of District officers. Lunch will be provided for donation.

The Annual Report is submitted each year in May to tell our story and let Department and National know what we have done for the past year. This report is important because National uses the information to compile from all the Posts within the American legion to report to Congress what we have done to help out Veterans and Children. What I need is for you to please list all the hours, mileage and money you have volunteered for the past year. If you are not sure where it may fall let me know and I will report your hours in the proper area.



From the Historian

Eric Testorff

March was the first month of the Calendar of Romulus, or the old Roman calendar. Romulus is credited with the founding of Rome, and is thought to have codified the ancient Roman belief that the year begins with the first flowerings of spring. This practice lasted until 153 B.C., wherein January was first celebrated as the beginning of the Roman year. Looking forward and backward, Janus was the god of beginnings and transitions.

But with the long winter over, March was always the beginning of the season of fighting and war, and was thus named for Mars—the Roman god of war. The name has lasted well beyond the Roman empire, and can be heard in the modern names for the month: The French call it “mars,” the Spanish “marzo” and the Germans “März,” to name a few.

From March and the war god Mars comes much of our military terminology, such as the “line of march,” or to march in a parade. It’s also the source of “martial law” or “martial music.”

The **Ides of March** (Latin: Idus Martiae,) is a day in the Roman calendar that corresponds to 15 March. Although the months of May, July and October also had “ides” associated with the moon, the Ides of March was marked by several religious observances and became notorious as the date of the assassination of Julius Caesar, perhaps Rome’s greatest general.

Caesar had been warned by a soothsayer that he would be killed no later than March 15th, with this oracle, or seer of the future, famously saying “beware the Ides of March.” But on the 15th, Caesar was nevertheless on his way to a meeting at the Senate. He passed the man in the street and joked, “The Ides of March are come!” To which the seer replied, “Aye, Caesar, but not gone.”

Of course Caesar went on to his meeting with the Senate, and a group of perhaps 60 Senators led by Brutus and Cassius murdered the great general. Thus, March 15th, 44 B.C., marks the end of the Roman Republic and the beginning of the Roman Empire.

Pictured is a Roman “dinarius” coin issued two years later by Caesar’s assassin, Brutus, commemorating the Ides of March. The cap between the two daggers represents the “Liberty Cap” which was traditionally given to slaves on their day of emancipation. Brutus was making it clear that he had defended the Republic from Caesar’s grasp at kingship—an idea that would fall by the wayside with subsequent Emperors of Rome.



From the Finance Officer

Rusty Bower

All remaining T-Shirts are on sale for \$12.00. I still have plenty of The American Legion Centennial Polo Shirts in all sizes for \$40.00

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

Origin of NAVY Terminology

Rusty Bower



"Shiver me timbers" (or **"shiver my timbers"** using the possessive pronoun)

This is an exclamation in the form of a mock oath usually attributed to the speech of pirates in works of fiction. It is employed as a literary device by authors to express shock, surprise or annoyance.

Bringing a Little South to the West

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

Did you ever run out of gas in your car/truck? Did you ever run out of gas with your girlfriend in the car (No, I'm not talking about when you pretended you ran out of gas so you could park)? Did you ever run out of gas twice in the same day? Did you ever run out of gas twice in the same day with your girlfriend in the car? If so, you probably heard words come out of her mouth that would make a Sailor blush.

It was 1970 and I was the proud owner of a '64 Buick Special Convertible. It had a 4 speed in the floor and cut-off pipes that when opened, sounded like a Class C Stock Car. Man, I loved that little V-8. Everything worked pretty well in that car except the gas gauge. It registered a gas level, but it was not very reliable. Or at least that's how I remember it.

Jackie and I had been dating about a year. One weekend, as was my custom, I drove from Memphis to Cherry Valley, Arkansas to visit the grandfolks. It was about an hour and a half drive to that little country town of about 350 people, mostly farmers. There was one gas station in the town and their prices were about \$0.05 per gallon higher than the same gas in the thriving metropolis of Wynne about 15 miles away. And I had to go through Wynne to get to Cherry Valley. Why am I telling you this? Stay with me, it has bearing on the story.

That particular Saturday Jackie decided to go with me and visit my grandparents. As we motored around the outskirts of Wynne, I noticed the gas gauge was getting a little low, but I wasn't worried. I had plenty of gas to get to my grandparents house, visit and get gas on the way back to Memphis. After all, I wasn't going to pay \$0.35 per gallon. I never had enough money to actually fill up the tank, so waiting as long as possible seemed to be the right thing to do. It made the frequency between fill ups stretch out and I got more miles to the gallon...or at least that was my logic, and I'm sticking to it.

We had just left Wynne and was on our last 15 mile leg to Cherry Valley. About a mile from the gravel road turn-off to my grandparents, the engine started chugging. I looked at the gauge and a sick feeling began sweeping over my body. I inched the car onto the shoulder and it died. I was about 13 miles from the nearest gas station in Wynne and about 2 miles from Cherry Valley. I hitched a ride (yes, I left Jackie in the car) to Cherry Valley, borrowed a half gallon gas can from the owner, filled it up (almost) and put that in my car. Needless to say, Jackie was not very happy with me, but she tried hard not to show it.

I took the gas can back to the station (no, I didn't get more gas) and we went on to my grandparents' house. We had a very nice visit and headed back to Memphis. When I reached the highway from the gravel road, I could have turned right, drive the 2 miles to town and get gas (at about \$0.05 more than I would pay in Wynne). Or I could take a chance and turn left toward Wynne and Memphis. I did the quick math in my head about how far I should be able to travel on a half-gallon of gas. By the way, I was a Junior in high school and just spent the previous summer in Summer School, retaking Geometry. Math was NOT my strong suit.

Yep, you guessed it. I turned left. And we almost made it to Wynne. I was about 500 yards from the gas station at the edge of town when that all too familiar chugging began...again. I nursed the car to the shoulder and got out of the car. I didn't even look at Jackie, but could feel the steam rising on that nice Spring day. And I'm not talking about the weather. She said things to me as I started walking away that still wakes me at night.

It's been more than 46 years since that day. But even now when the gas gauge gets a little past a quarter of a tank, she will look at me and say, "I'm NOT running out of gas again!" And we have never run out of gas since that day. I only pray that if I ever do, she won't be in the car. She told me that if I ever do run out of gas, DON'T CALL HER!



Post Officers 2016-2017

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



ALR Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Bob Caddell	719-393-5180
Vice President	Steve Hayes	719-494-7166
Secretary	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Tim McDowell	719-510-9907
Road Captain	Grady Mitchell	719-201-3353



Auxiliary Officers 2016-2017

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



Sons of The American Legion 2016-2017

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

March 2017

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

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

May 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	2	3	4 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	5 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  	13 No Breakfast Officer Swearing In Meeting - 5pm Dinner - 6pm \$10.50  
14 Mother's Day	15 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  	16	17	18	19 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	20 Armed Forces Day
21	22	23 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	24	25	26 \$10.50 Meal Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	27
28	29 Memorial Day	30	31	Notes:		