

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Mike Barger

I'd like to thank all those that have volunteered their time doing what they do. Without our volunteers, we would not be a successful Post. We can always use more volunteers, so please don't hesitate to come down and help. Even if it's just an hour a month. Also, if you haven't noticed the change in the landscaping in front of the building, thanks to Luke Barron from Troop 127, for completing his Eagle Scout Project, and to the Post members that helped with the changes to the front of the Post. What a change it is to see.

April is elections month, so it's that time of year again to elect your leadership for the upcoming year. All positions are up for grabs, so feel free to put your name in for a position you desire to fulfill. Please send an email with your intentions to Bill Burd at (advisor1colo@yahoo.com). You can apply for multiple positions, that way if you don't get selected for one, you may be selected for another. We can always use new blood to lead this Post into the future.

Thanks to all those members that stepped up to Sponsor A Vet again this year. The folks that we sponsored are very appreciative of us doing this, and it's a great way of saying thanks to them for their service to this great nation. Without their sacrifice, who knows where we'd be today.

Speaking of the Sponsor A Vet, we were able to gather enough funds to sponsor 31 vets. Last year we sponsored 23. Thanks to all those that sponsored a vet this year. The ones we did sponsor this year has us much closer to our overall goal of 1037 members. Although the light at the end of the tunnel is getting brighter, we need to keep this train moving to break out into daylight. Let's continue to work the membership drive as hard as we can. Department would like all Posts to be at 100% by May 15th. This is the time of year where it gets harder to get the final few members to renew or join, but I know that if you continue to speak about the programs the Legion offers, and what great things we do here in the community, it should be a slam dunk to get those last few. I'm setting a goal of us meeting our membership target goal of 1037 members by April 15th. I know this can be reached, with the help of everyone here.

As some if not all of you are now aware of, we're running the Queen of Hearts Progressive Raffle here at the Post. We'll be doing weekly drawings on all Friday nights that we have an event at the Post at 7:30 pm. If we don't have an event on a given Friday, the drawing will move to the following Friday. Tickets are \$1 a piece, and you must be present to win. Tickets will be sold up to 7:15 pm. If your ticket is drawn, you are guaranteed to win something, if not the entire pot, if you're the lucky one to draw the Queen of Hearts card. It's our hope that this will bring in more folks to the Post, because usually every Friday night we do dinners. Why not come in for a dinner and hope your ticket is drawn? For more information on this, and what the payouts for each card will be, you can find it on our website (<http://legion209.org>).

We continue to work on trying to find ways to bring in higher dollar donations, to help offset the costs that it takes to keep this Post operational. We're always looking for folks to bring in new ideas, and present them to the Capital Fund committee that meets the third Thursday of every month at 6:30. We're also looking for someone to head up the Centennial Committee. The Centennial Committee will be responsible for setting up our celebration of the Legion turning 100 years old in 2019, and come up with how we as a Post are going to celebrate this great accomplishment. If you're interested in wanting to get involved and head this up, please contact me, and we can sit down and begin the process of what we would like to do.

Lastly, I would like to implement in the newsletter, a section where we do bios of our members. There's a lot of members that would like to know who our members are, and it would sure be a shame to have these stories go to the grave untold. If you're interested in writing something up about yourself, even if it's just a paragraph, please email to myself (mikebarger@comcast.net) or Jay Bowen (legionnairejay@yahoo.com), and we'll get it added to our newsletter. We all have a story to tell, and it would be great to pass this on to our younger generation, so they know a little bit about what we did and what happened when we all served.

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



From the Unit 209 President

Cathy Barger

Spring has arrived, and April is going to be a very busy month.

Don't forget elections will be held on April 14th during our monthly meeting. Anyone interested in running for an office should contact one of the current officers.

I want to thank everyone for making our Butter Braid fundraiser a success. This is a steady fundraiser for us and helps make it possible for us to continue helping our Veterans.

We are looking for sponsors for our Girls State program. If you know of anyone that would like to sponsor a girl for Girls State or if you would like to be a sponsor, the full sponsorship is \$200 for one girl. If you can't do a full sponsorship any amount will help. Girls State will be held on June 10-16, 2017 at UNC Greeley.

The National Auxiliary President will be in Colorado in April. On April 4-8, Department will be hosting the National President here in Colorado. You can come meet the National President at the following locations:

- April 5th-Lunch at Longmont 32 - Dinner at 1879 CSU- Ft Collins
- April 6th-Dinner at Northglenn 22, dinner served at 6:00 p.m., cost for dinner is \$15.00
- April 7th- Lunch for Women Veterans hosted by District 6-Contact Donna Thompson if you would like to come to this.
- April 7th-Dinner at Security 38 for CWF Banquet and Fundraiser. Social at 5p.m., Dinner at 6p.m.

Don't forget Auxiliary's 1st Annual Craft Fair, April 7th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., come on down and do some shopping. A Pampered Chef representative will be one of the vendors. In conjunction with the Craft Fair, the Unit is currently conducting a catalog party. Orders can be written or online. The Unit will receive 15% of the sales. If an order is \$25 or more the buyer's name will be placed in a separate drawing.

The Blue Star Mothers will be doing "Suits for Troops." We will be collecting men's and women's suits and other business attire for the soldiers transitioning out of the military to help dress for interviews. We will be at the Post on April 22, 2018, from 1 to 4 collecting the items of clothing.

District 7 of the American Legion Department of Colorado is holding their annual Convention at Post 209 on April 29th at 11 a.m... Everyone is encouraged to attend.

On April 28th and 29th there will be a Fundraiser and Homecoming for the Legion Family. Terri Clinton, Jim Gaddis and Ann Ritacco will be having combined events.

I would like to wish the following ladies a HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Marilyn Brinkley Cotter, Kristina Floyd, Celia Hamm, Renee Hedrick, Gloria Hill, Ilse Hoggenmiller, Shirley Martin, Stephanie Moyer, Nikki Noonan, and Lois Wooton. Wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

The Auxiliary dinner for April (4/13) will be a potato bar, cost for dinner is \$9.00. Please come down and support Auxiliary, and make sure to RSVP.



1st Annual American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Craft Fair!

Don't forget to come out and support our Craft Fair. There will be some very interesting crafts available for purchase and an opportunity to support one of the premier programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. All proceeds from the day's event will go to support Girl's State. For a mere \$2.00 entry, you will experience a fun and rewarding day.

The Craft Fair will run from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Check out the flyer in our February *The Centennial* Newsletter and online at legion209.org.



From the Adjutant
Marvin Weaver, Jr.

In April we will be having our Post Elections at the General membership Meeting on April 14th and all positions will be up for election/appointment. If you want to run for a position and will not be at the meeting I need to have an email from you stating that you would like to serve and in which position.

We are doing well with membership this year but we still need about 30 more members (renewals and new) to reach our goal set by District. If you have a friend that is not a member yet talk with them and see about getting them signed up. 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. Department will also be giving away a PUFL membership at Department Convention for recruiting new members.

District 7 Convention will be on April 29th at Post 209 starting at 11am. We will have officers from Department to give updates on what is going on within the Department. We will also be having election of District Officers. Lunch will be provided for donation. Department Convention will be June 21 – 24 at Hotel Elegante here in Colorado Springs.

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 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 still let me know and I will report your hours in the proper area.



From the Sr. Vice Commander
Eric Testorff

April is Elections month at American Legion Posts all across America, and I am reminded of a Legionnaire and an officer of another Post, and another time. I'm speaking of my wife Donna's father, and my father-in-law, Rea Daniel Ingram. Rea passed away a number of years ago, but I count myself lucky to have known him.

Soft-spoken and reserved, the tall and lanky Rea was nevertheless a wise and experienced leader. He always seemed to know the way to proceed. Rea was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, but never made it overseas because of broken eardrums. Nevertheless, the Army found a place for him, and he quickly proved his abilities, steadily making his way from Private up to Staff Sergeant from 1943 to 1946.



During the war, Rea became an instructor in the Infantry School of the U.S. Army's Replacement and School Command, originally founded in Birmingham Alabama in 1942, and relocated to Fort Bragg North Carolina in 1946. Charged with training our Army personnel for combat, some of the Command's other schools were: The Antiaircraft School; The Armored School; The Cavalry School; The Coast Artillery School; The Field Artillery School; The Parachute School; The Tank Destroyer School... and a number of others. The patch at left is on the shoulder of Rea's service uniform. The three stripes are in the colors of, and refer to, the components of the "One Army" concept: Active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard, all bounded by a border of Army green.



After the war, Staff Sergeant Ingram eventually became American Legion Member Ingram, joining Redwood Empire Post 385 in Boonville, California. Rea ran for office, and was eventually elected Post Commander multiple times. Quiet yet sure, he was an ideal leader for the American Legion, and an example to all who came after him. I count it a privilege to have known the man, and as I stand for office at Post 209, I take my inspiration from Legionnaires and leaders like Commander Rea Ingram: gone but never forgotten.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



WALK OF HONOR

Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

If you've attended our meetings over the past year, 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 \$90 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 \$250 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.



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

Origin of NAVY Terminology **Rusty Bower**



When The Lord Created Chief Petty Officers

When the Lord was creating the NAVY Chief Petty Officer, he was in his sixth day of overtime when an angel appeared and said "you're doing a lot of fiddling around with this one." And the Lord said "Have you read the specs on this order?" "A Chief Petty Officer has to be able to work 12-24 hours per day, through any type of weather, on any ship or boat, know the laws of the sea, be able to load and unload hundreds of tons of cargo after being up all night, and then try to get some sleep in an area that is accessible to and is used by all the crew. He has to live in his shop, if need be, 24 hours a day, seven days a week for days on end, offer advice and counseling and still meet time schedules, maintain an even and controlled composure when all around him have gone mad. And he has to be in top physical condition at all times, running on black coffee and half-eaten meals. And he has to have six pair of hands."

The angel shook her head and slowly said "Six pair of hands...No Way!" "The hands are not causing me the problem," said the Lord, "it's the three pair of eyes a Chief Petty Offer has to have." "That's on the standard model?" asked the angel. The Lord nodded and said, One pair that sees the herd of whales or a boat in peril, another pair that can see the blind spots that dolphins and young Sailors love to hide in, and another pair in front that can look reassuringly at the young bleeding Sailor, who is injured, by saying "You'll be okay" when he knows it isn't so."

"Lord," said the angel, touching his sleeve, "rest and work on this tomorrow." "I can't" said the Lord. "I already have a mold that can steam his ship 700 - 800 miles a day without an incident and raise his family of five, seldom seeing them, on less than \$2,000 per month."

The angel circles the Chief Petty Officer slowly, "Can he think?" The angel asked. "You bet" said the Lord. "It can tell you how to secure for sea, recite NAVY Regulations and the UCMJ in its sleep, deliver his assigned cargo, be a parent, offers timely advice to young Sailors and Junior Officers, help search for missing children, defend women's and children's rights, tries to get 8 hours of rest, when he can, and raises a family of law respecting citizens while seldom ever going home....And still keeps a good sense of humor.

This Chief Petty Officer also has phenomenal personal control. He can deal with port calls in areas created from scenes painted in Hell, comfort the injured, their family and friends, and then read in the daily paper how the military is no more than baby killers with guns and have no respect for others."

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek of the Chief Petty Officer. "There's a leak," she proclaimed. "I told you that we're trying to put too much into this model." "That's not a leak" said the Lord, "It's a tear. "It's bottled up emotions, fallen comrades, for commitment to that piece of cloth called the Flag, for justice and for the families without Fathers and Mothers. "You're a genius!" said the angel.

The Lord looking somber said "I didn't put it there."



Motorcycle Minute Grady "K-Bar" Mitchell; President

Well, we're moving into Spring and better riding weather. Although many of us have been riding throughout the Winter, it will be nice to be able to shed some of the outerwear and enjoy. It's also the time for our annual Bike Inspections, so our Road Captain, John Hancheck will be making sure each Rider has the proper documentation and that bikes are in good shape.

Our Post Fun Run is coming up on the 14th of April, and it is our first group ride of the year. We spend a lot of our riding time supporting Veteran causes, so it's nice to start the riding season with an event just for us. It's a great chance to get tuned up and ride as a large group after the Winter.

We had a great Biker's Ball last month and raised funds to support our annual BBQ for all the Veterans at McCandless Nursing Home in July. We also had a good turnout for our ALR Dinner last month, and we thank everyone who showed up. The profits from these dinners help a lot with our Veteran Support efforts.

Be safe out there and keep the rubber side down.



From the Historian Chris Earley

In a strange twist of fate, the month of April marks both the beginning and the end of the American Civil War. It was April 12th, 1861 at 4:30 in the morning when Confederate troops commanded by General Pierre Beauregard attacked Fort Sumter. Fort Sumter was a Federal Fort under construction on an island in Charleston Harbor, South Carolina after the War of 1812. Work on the Fort had begun in 1829 but was not yet complete when it came under attack that morning.

US Army Major Robert Anderson had previously garrisoned several companies of the 1st US Artillery in December, 1860. The Fort, only partially armored was missing much of its heavy artillery. The governor of the now seceded South Carolina called on the Union to withdraw their forces, Anderson refused. Several failed attempts to resupply the Fort finally led President Lincoln to send a small fleet to Charleston to restock Anderson's troops. The first ship arrived on April 11th. That same day General Beauregard called upon Major Anderson to surrender the Fort.

On the morning of April 12th, the Confederate troops began a 34 hour bombardment from Fort Johnson on nearby James Island. The Federal's didn't return fire for the first two hours, and subsequently fired only sparingly as their ammunition was limited and all their cannon munitions were of a non-explosive type. On April 13th the Fort was surrendered and evacuated. The Union lost 2 soldiers in the battle and the Confederacy lost 1.

Flash forward 4 years and 370 miles north to April 9, 1865 and Appomattox Court House, Virginia. Prior to this date the southern cities of St. Petersburg and Richmond (the Confederate Capitol) had fallen after a ten-month siege. General Robert E. Lee, forced to flee the Capitol had hopes of joining up with Confederate forces in the west under the command of General Joseph Johnson. On the morning of April 9th, Lee found his retreat cut off by Union forces. At first believing the Union forces to be comprised of nothing more than light cavalry, Lee attempted to break thru the line. Only then did he realize that those forces had been joined by two Corps of Union Infantry. Lee was left with no choice but to surrender to US General Ulysses S. Grant.

Terms of surrender were drawn up in the home of Wilmer McLean. While the bulk of the Confederate weapons were turned over to the Union, Grant did allow the southern forces to retain their horses. Confederate officers were allowed to keep their swords and side arms.

While a few battles remained in the war, Lee's surrender affectively brought the Civil War to an end.

And that is history.



From SAL Squadron Commander Ken Taylor



From the Squadron Commander Ken Taylor

Squadron 209 has good news to report! Thanks to the 209 family, our Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) goal of \$1,500 has been reached! The check will be presented at the CWF Banquet which will be held at Post 38 on April 7, 2018.

We continue to gather donations for the Josh Dog program and recently purchased a case of 10 Josh Dog Kits. These will be presented to children at St Francis Hospital. Josh is always well received and we hear many good stories from parents and hospital staff.

Squadron 209 has a membership goal of 107 for 2018. At this time, our membership stands at 89 which is 18 members short of our goal. If your card doesn't have 2018 on it, please renew now! Dues are \$20 for anyone age 18 or older, and \$10 for those under 18. Our Squadron needs your support to continue our many worthwhile programs.



From the Games' Managers Ken and Joyce Taylor

We've started a new raffle and this one is just for current paid up members of the 209 family (Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders). It's called the Queen of Hearts Raffle and the prize can reach as high as \$15,000! Tickets are sold for \$1 each and drawings are held each week on Friday evenings. One half (50%) of weekly sales go to increase the jackpot. The weekly winner gets to pick a card from the board and is awarded a prize according to the card they pick. The person who picks the Queen of Hearts wins the Jackpot Prize! Complete details and the current jackpot amount can be found on our web page at legion209.org. Just click on the Queen of Hearts Icon.

The first drawing was held on March 9, 2018 and the lucky winner was Helen Rydell! Helen opened the card envelope to find the 2 of Spades which paid her \$5. She said it was fun but wished the prize had been bigger! Try again next week Helen!

!!YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!! !!YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!!



Let's Get To Know You!

The Commander suggested we set aside some space in The Centennial to showcase our members. He's asking all members to consider sending a Bio and we'll put it in the Newsletter. What a great way to learn about our members. So here's the first one.

MARVIN R. WEAVER, Sr.

Marvin was born 27 March 1942 in Leadville, Colorado. After graduating from Florence HS in 1961, he worked various jobs to include the Broadmoor Hotel for a year before entering the Air Force in August 1964. His first assignment was FE Warren AFB Cheyenne, WY as a Pavement & Grounds Specialist in Civil Engineering. His next assignment was with the 820th Red Horse squadron at Tuy Hoa, Vietnam. Other assignments included Charleston AFB, SC; Sembach AFB, Germany; Holloman AFB, NM; and Galena AFB, Alaska. His last assignment was Bolling AFB in Washington D.C. Marvin retired as a Master Sergeant with 22 years of service in August 1986. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, AF Commendation Medal, AF Outstanding Unit Award, AF Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, AF Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, AF Overseas Ribbon Long Ribbon, AF Longevity Service Award, AF NCO PME Graduate Ribbon, Vietnam Campaign Medal and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Device.

Marvin has been a Member of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) since 1990. He has held positions of Chapter Chairman, Vice Chapter Chairman and Board Trustee in the Air Academy Chapter. He was initiated into the Rat Pack in 1992. He achieved Knight of the Square Table leadership role in July 1994, Order of the Sword in July 1997, Order of Excalibur in August 2006, Grand Knight Elect in July 2010, and Grand Knight in July 2012.

He joined TREA (The Enlisted Association) in May 1989 and held the position of Sargent at Arms for five years.

He joined the American Legion in July 2010 and served as Judge Advocate from 2017 to present day. He has been a member of the Honor Guard since April 2017.

Marvin lives in Colorado Springs with his wife Pat. They have two sons; Marvin Jr., and Neil, daughter-in-law, Tiffany, and two granddaughters, Jailyn and Sydney.



From the Sergeant-at-Arms
Stan "Sgt. Ski" Kransinski

Good day all Legion Post 209 members,

I am proud to announce that our new "MVP Collection" has its' second inductee. Please help me congratulate the wonderful Mrs. Jackie Bowen! She was publically embarrassed and recognized at our General Membership Meeting on March 10th. Let's learn a little about Mrs. Jackie that we didn't know...she shared with me:

Mrs. Jackie earned her eligibility for The American Legion Auxiliary through her husband Jay. During their 20 year US Army career, they had 3 tours in Germany, the 3rd being her favorite, and they were also stationed in El Paso, TX and Key West, FL. She joined this world's largest women's patriotic service organization in 2002 and has served in a leadership role at several Unit and District positions since that time. Mrs. Jackie comes from a military family. Her father served in WWII, her older brother was a Green Beret in the Army for 20 years, her other brother served 24 years in the Navy, and they have a son who served honorably for four years in the US Marine Corps. She has two wonderful sons & daughters-in-law and four grandchildren. She is the baby of the family with four siblings and was spoiled rotten. Yet even while being spoiled, her patriotism was instilled to love and respect our God and country, flag, and Veterans.

Mrs. Jackie has lived a life of service to others. Most of her 46 plus year marriage has been spent raising two wonderful boys and ensuring her husband had a relaxing and welcome home to come to at the end of the day. When the boys left the nest to start a new life of their own, Jackie joined The American Legion Auxiliary to continue her passion of serving others. Mrs. Jackie transferred her membership to Unit 209 not long after they moved to Colorado Springs in 2005. The Unit was an organization in name only at that time. The membership level of that Unit was just enough to prevent losing their charter, they rarely met, and were not active in the Post or community. Mrs. Jackie changed that as she volunteered to lead the Unit as President and served in that role for more than nine years. During her time as President, the Unit grew by more than 500% and they became an invaluable partner with the Post, leading most of the events and programs supported by Post 209.

Mrs. Jackie continues to serve as the President of District 7, Executive-at-Large at the Unit, and is the first to volunteer for any event at Post 209. She also serves as our Assistant Club Manager and helps coordinate all dinners and other events sponsored by Post 209. She is tireless in her support of all Post activities and is considered the "go to" person for any information related to Post activities. When not working for The American Legion, she serves on the Veterans' Day Parade Board and is the President of her Homeowners Association.

What a deserving MEMBER-VOLUNTEER-PARTICIPANT of our wonderful Post! Thank you Mrs. Jackie for all that you do, for the spirit that you do it in and for your continued service to us all.

Note, as you know, there is now a "MVP Collection" nomination box available at the front counter for nominations. You can use the index cards located on the box, type it out at home and then slip it into the box or send an email to the Post email address at centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com. The Post Executive Committee will review all the nominations and select the recipient during their meeting on the first Thursday of April. The recipient will be recognized during the April General Membership Meeting that following Saturday. The Sergeant-at-Arms will then arrange to interview the recipient for another offering under their title in the next monthly Newsletter. This will repeat monthly ongoing!

Please become an American Legion Post 209 "MVP Collection" member...step up and help and/or nominate someone who has. Assistance is needed throughout our efforts! 'We can only make a difference if we are involved...participants not spectators.'

Thank you and please have a great month!



**2018 Inaugural Colorado
American Legion
Boys State
Golf Tournament – Save the Date!**



Join us for our Inaugural Colorado American Legion Boys State Golf Tournament. This is the beginning of what we believe will become a great tradition played at one of the best golf venues on the Front Range, sitting at 7,400 feet.

**Kings Deer Golf Course, Monument, CO
Saturday, 19 May, 2018**

- 7:00am** Registration
- 7:45am** Rules briefing
- 8:00am** Play begins with a Shotgun Start
- 1:00 p.m.** Lunch (included in the cost) at Kings Deer; Prizes awarded

FORMAT: Four-Person Scramble

You may enter as a single or as a group. If you do not have a foursome, the tournament committee will fill your group.

Save the Date on your calendar and come on out and support this great American Legion Americanism program.

We are looking for Golf Players and Golf Sponsors NOW!

More information coming soon!

Colorado American Legion Boys State is a program of The American Legion, Department of Colorado. It is a 501 (c)(3), so donations may be tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor.

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

Bringing a Little South to the West

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

Being an April Fool's baby, I've often told people that the only day I typically don't prank is April 1st. I believe I have the license to pull "April Fool's" jokes and pranks year 'round on anyone so I normally leave the 1st open to novices. But there have been a few exceptions.

Jackie has a sister about 8 years older than her; let's call her Linda. Linda is a sweetheart, and is VERY gullible. Every few years when I'm feeling mischievous, I'll target Linda...and it's never failed. One such occasion comes to mind.

We were living in Blytheville, Arkansas, about an hour and a half from Memphis where Linda and her husband, Jerry lived. In the early to mid '90's, I worked for Bush Brothers and Company, makers of Bush's Best Baked Beans. The manufacturing facility I worked for only had a few computers and there was only one computer repair store in that little town of about 20,000 people. So it was not uncommon to take a computer to Memphis for repair or a major upgrade.

I called Linda one April 1st Spring day and told her I was coming to town to drop off a computer for an upgrade and the store was in their neighborhood so I would be stopping by for dinner. This was just before the proliferation of cell phones, so we communicated long distance from our home phone. She waited all afternoon for me to stop by, and when I wasn't there just after rush hour she started to panic (that's pretty normal for Jackie's family). She checked the news to try and find out if there was any major traffic issues, such as accidents (again, this is typical in that family). When I didn't show up at about 6:00pm, she finally decided to call Jackie in Blytheville.

I answered the phone. The first thing out of her mouth was, "Where are you?" I calmly responded, "Where did you call?" She replied, "I thought you were in Memphis." I asked, "Linda, what day is this?" That's when she connected the dots and hung up on me. Back then, she really didn't have much of a sense of humor. She's gotten much better, but is still just as gullible.

I've always prided myself into believing I was above being pranked, especially on my birthday. But there was one time a "buddy" got the best of me. We were living in Germany (3rd tour) and planning to go out to dinner in celebration of my birthday with our friends. They drove that evening and picked us up. As we climbed into their car, I was handed a birthday gift and encouraged to open it. Even though it was a little dark in the car, there was just enough light for me to open the gift and see they had bought my favorite cologne. I thanked them and splashed some on as we drove to the Gast Haus for dinner.

I noticed when we walked in the door I was getting a few stares, but that was not uncommon for the Germans in that little village to give US military folks a second look. After we sat down, my friends kept grinning and occasionally would bust out laughing. My dear bride was also smiling as if I had missed a joke somewhere. After a few minutes, I noticed my hand was stained with what appeared to be grease or something dark. I excused myself and went to the WC (bathroom) to wash my hands. That's when I looked in the mirror and discovered what everyone was laughing about.

My face and neck had streaks of dark green. My "friends" had poured some of the cologne out of the bottle and filled it with food coloring. My initial reaction was to get mad, then I busted out laughing because I remembered the comment I had made in the car on the way to the Restaurant. I bragged about not ever falling for a prank on my birthday. I told them I was too smart to fall for anything, especially on that day.

That taught me a couple of very valuable lessons. One, it's okay to laugh at yourself, and two, don't ever think you can't be the victim of a prank at any time and any day.

Since that time, I've been very cautious of what and who I am around on my birthday. And as far as fooling folks, remember, I was the Commander of Post 209 for 4 ½ years and the Department Commander last year. So who fooled who? :)



Post Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Sr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Jr. Vice Cdr	Jerry Lollar	719-641-2778
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	719-359-6356
Historian	Chris Earley	719-338-1398
Post Exec. Cmtee	Bill Burd	719-330-1279
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Marvin Weaver, Sr.	719-638-4763
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2018-2019

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Grady Mitchell	719-201-3353
Vice President	Marvin Palmer	719-287-7047
Secretary	Amy Mitchell	719-321-8291
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Tim McDowell	719-510-9907
Road Captain	John Hanchek	719-648-5415



Auxiliary Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Vice President	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073
Secretary	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Jackie Burd	719-590-6615
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Nancy LaFayette	719-594-6806



Sons of The American Legion 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047
Sr. Vice Com-mander	Marv Weaver Jr.	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Com-mander	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-373-7814
Adjutant	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Steve P. Cox	970-580-8191
Assistant S-a-Arms	Stanten Krasinski	719-359-6356
Chaplain	Shelten Krasinski	719-359-6356
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Happy Easter! 	2	3	4 Executive Committee Marksmanship 6:30pm 	5 Young Guns 6:30pm Meeting 6:30pm 	6 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	7 1st Annual Auxiliary Craft Fair - 9:00am - 4:00pm
8	9	10	11 Marksmanship 6:30pm 	12 Young Guns 6:30pm 	13 \$9.00 Meal Auxiliary Dinner - RSVP Required! 	14 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am
15	16 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	17 Tax Day (Taxes Due)	18	19 Fundraising Committee Meeting 7:00pm	20 Cost to be Determined Steak Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	21
22 Earth Day Suits for Troops - 1-4pm	23	24 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm 	25 Administrative Professionals	26	27 \$10.50 Meal Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	28 Healing Warriors 9:00am - 12:30pm
29 District 7 Convention Post 209 11:00am 	30	Notes:				

May 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	4 \$10.00 Meal Quattro De Mayo Taco Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	5 Cinco De Mayo
6	7	8	9	10	11 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	12 Legion Training 8:45am Dine w/Nt'l Cmdr 6:00pm Installation 7:30pm  
13 Mother's Day Happy Mother's Day!	14	15	16	17 Fundraising Committee Meeting 7:00pm 	18 Cost to be Determined Meatloaf Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	19 Armed Forces Day
20	21 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	22 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	23	24	25 \$10.50 Meal Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	26 Healing Warriors 9:00am - 12:30pm
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31	Notes:	

June 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	2
3	4	5	6	7 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	8 \$9.00 Meal Auxiliary Dinner - RSVP Required! 	9 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	16
17 Father's Day Happy Father's Day!	18 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	19	20	21 Summer Solstice Fundraising Committee Meeting 7:00pm	22 \$10.50 Meal Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	23 Healing Warriors 9:00am - 12:30pm
24	25	26 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	27	28	29 Dinner TBD Fundraising Event! \$10.50 RSVP Required!  	30

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