



# The Centennial

Volume XVI Edition 4

April 2025

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL  
POST 209

## Happy Easter!

20 April, 2025



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3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917  
719.599.8624

[www.legion209.org](http://www.legion209.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>



### The American Legion Post 209 Officers 2024-2025

<b>Commander:</b>	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
<b>Adjutant:</b>	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b>	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b>	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Jeff Heischman	(719) 482-4357
<b>Service Officer:</b>	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
<b>Judge Advocate:</b>	Stan Hamamoto	(719) 322-6959
<b>Historian:</b>	Kurt Skinner	(719) 963-3517
<b>Exec. Committeeman:</b>	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Jim Bird	(719) 231-4928
<b>Immediate Past CDR:</b>	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
<b>Sgt.-at-Arms:</b>	Chris Roebuck	(719) 412-3145



### American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2024-2025

<b>President:</b>		
<b>Vice President:</b>		
<b>Secretary:</b>	Pat Weaver	(719) 638-4763
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Pricilla O'Donnell	(719) 290-9130
<b>Exec.-at-Large:</b>	Jackie Bowen	(901) 481-0673
<b>Historian:</b>	Sean Cope	(719) 246-4820
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Monalisa Taylor	<a href="mailto:monalisahugo@gmail.com">monalisahugo@gmail.com</a>



### Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2024-2025

<b>Commander:</b>	Chris Hollingsworth	(910) 364-1677
<b>Adjutant:</b>	Jim Bird	(719) 231-4928
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b>	Rob Barry	(719) 930-5725
<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b>	Jeff Heischman	(719) 482-4357
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ken Taylor	(719) 461-4047
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Bob "Odie" O'Donnell	(719) 432-6018
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Chris Roebuck	(719) 412-3145
<b>Executive Committeeman:</b>	Brian Wess	(719) 528-6672 (home)



### American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2024-2025

<b>Director:</b>	Lorenzo Trotter	(719) 964-5925
<b>Vice Director:</b>	George Sedlack	(719) 320-2487
<b>Secretary:</b>	Rick Feliciano	(719) 291-4955
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Lenzie Jeter	(719) 367-3383
<b>Road Captain:</b>	Scott Laudan	(719) 238-2679
<b>Logistics:</b>		
<b>Communications:</b>		()
<b>Chaplain:</b>		()



## From the Desk of Our Commander

Welcome to April!!! Longer and, hopefully, warmer days. It is getting to the time where we can spend more time outdoors in the fresh air – enjoy it! We have a ton of events, dinners, activities, and services coming up at the Post. Checkout the Kiosk displays at the Post and the website event calendar at <https://legion209.org>. There is something of interest for everyone in there. Check it out!

Be sure to attend the April 8 breakfast and meeting. We will hold annual Post elections at this meeting. Five officers are running for re-election, but all positions are open for nomination if you are interested in a leadership role within the Post. Unit and Squadron elections are this month as well. Be sure to attend this month's meetings and cast your votes!

See you at the Post!

Can't make it to the Post for the monthly meeting? You can still participate!!! Obviously, we'd MUCH prefer your attendance in person, but we know there are times when that's not possible due to conflicts, illness or travel. This way, you can still stay connected to what is happening at our Post and in our community. Just keep in mind you won't get to eat our delicious breakfast through Zoom!

To virtually access a monthly meeting conducted in the main meeting room, go to web link:  
<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/85019977840?pwd=Kjb6mwNLRAjqzqUIVut8DHERIH0UXD.1> - Dial In: 719-359-4580; Phone or Zoom App Meeting ID: 850 1997 7840, Passcode: 448593

This link is new, so make sure you don't use an old link to join the meeting!

*Steve Hayes*  
Post Commander



## Important Membership Message

Please check your membership card. If your card shows 2024, the grace period for renewal ended 1 Feb and you are no longer current for American Legion membership. We currently have 280 individuals in this status. The Post is currently at 82.6% with 192 memberships to go to meet our annual goal. Please let us know if you need assistance with your renewal. You can renew online, by mail with check or in person at the post. The adjutant is usually in the office on Mondays between 10 and 2pm or he can accept it in person at Friday dinners or the Second Saturday membership meeting. Online renewals at national are available at his link: <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew#legion-org>



## From Our Adjutant

If you missed the Membership meeting last month you missed a good one. We held a Post Everlasting for 26 of our members that passed on to Post Everlasting over the last year. It was a very moving ceremony. After the Post Everlasting ceremony, we held a Member Initiation ceremony and initiated 6 Legionnaires into The American Legion. This month you will want to come because we will be holding elections of officers to run the Post for the next year. Your voice matters and helps us to get our direction for the following year.

I still need to get your input to complete the Consolidated Post Report (CPR). I have to complete this and turn it in by June 1<sup>st</sup>. To assist me, I need to know the hours, money, and mileage you donated over the past year. The areas on the CPR where I need your help to complete are VA&R (Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation), National Security, Americanism, Community Service Hours. Some examples are for Legion programs like donating blood, Boys State, Legion baseball, Honor Guard, etc. They can also be for things you do not just for the Legion; such as Toy Runs, volunteering at church, Veterans Stand Down, roadside cleanup, Vets4Vets runs, museum docent, etc. To assist you, I will send out a tracking sheet in the next 411. It is an easy way for you to track and report your activities, and for me to consolidate all the activities. Please watch for it and use it. If you do not know which block to check, I can do that for you if you give the activity a good description. The key is to just report it, no matter how small or if you think it matters. The reporting period is 1 June 2022 through 31 May. The American Legion as a whole is really bad about reporting all of the good we do.

Lastly; if you have not renewed your membership for 2025 yet, it expired on December 31<sup>st</sup>. I am in the office on most Mondays from 9:30 – 2:00. If you want to come by and talk with me or bring your renewal to the Post you can do so at that time or see me at one of the Friday dinners.

Thanks for all you do to help Veterans and the Post.

*Marvin Weaver, Jr.*  
Post 209 Adjutant



## From our Post Historian

April is the month in which America's deadliest conflict, The Civil War, began in 1861 and ended in 1865. Following the secession of 11 Southern states from the American Union, hostilities began when rebel forces attacked and captured Fort Sumter on 12 April, 1861. Four years and 620,000 battle fatalities later, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered his Army to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse on 9 April, 1865.

On 1 April 1954, President Eisenhower signed a bill authorizing the U.S. Air Force Academy. The first class of cadets was sworn in at Lowry AFB in July, 1955 as construction began at the future permanent USAFA site in Colorado Springs.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was established on 4 April, 1949, linking the United States and Western Europe in a collective defense pact to defend against the authoritarian Communist military threat of the Soviet Union.

On 11 April, 1951, in perhaps the most notable dismissal in American military history, President Harry Truman relieved General of the Army Douglas MacArthur of command of U.S. forces in Korea. MacArthur had ignored Truman's plan for a negotiated truce in Korea, and advocated extending the war by invasion of the Chinese mainland and, Truman feared potential use of atomic weapons in the Asian theater. Truman believed MacArthur's failure to respect Presidential authority left him with no other choice. Hailed as a national hero upon his return to the United States and invited to speak before a joint session of Congress, MacArthur observed that as "an old soldier that had tried to do his duty", he would now "just fade away." Consequently, so did Truman's public approval rating.



Over four months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 18 April, 1942 "Doolittle Raid" represented America's first retaliatory strike back at Japan. Led by Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, 16 B-25 bombers launched from the deck of the USS *Hornet* on a one-way daylight bombing raid over Tokyo. The plan called for aircrews to crash land their aircraft over the Chinese mainland and hopefully receive assistance from the Chinese population. Remarkably, only seven U.S. crewmembers died in the unprecedented operation. Although limited in military value, the daring raid was a tremendous boost to American war morale.

American "patriots" demonstrated their rebellious nature on 19 April, 1775 in the "Battle" of Lexington and Concord, when Massachusetts militias and townsfolk fired on 700 British troops on a mission to seize the Concord arsenal held by rebels. Representing the first exchange of fire in an undeclared war between the British Empire and American colonials, the clash resulted in over 300 British casualties and became known as "the shot heard 'round the world."

"Remembering the Maine," the United States declared war on Spain on 25 April, 1898. An extensive naval investigation of the explosion of the USS *Maine*, which killed 266 American Sailors and Marines, determined that a suspected submerged mine was to



blame. American victory in the brief Spanish-American War ceded possession of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippine Islands to the United States.

In the first recorded land battle fought overseas by U.S. forces, a detachment of Marines marched hundreds of miles through the North African desert “to the shores of Tripoli” to capture the Ottoman port city of Derna on 27 April, 1805 during the First Barbary War.

On 30 April, 1789, America inaugurated a military veteran as its first President. As the unanimous selection of electors, General George Washington was sworn in at Federal Hall on Wall Street in New York City. “First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen,” Washington led a life of honorable service. Since Washington, nearly two-thirds of U.S. Presidents have served in the military forces of this nation.

*Kurt Skinner*  
**Post Historian**



## **From Our Post Service Officer**

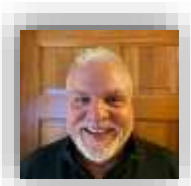
Lately, things have been somewhat “different” at the VA. I’m sure you have all heard about the staffing cuts, and the proposed additional 83,000 additional layoffs at the VA. Before you read too much into this, please watch the video the new VA Secretary, Doug Collins recently put out. You can go to Youtube and pull it up, but I can give you a summary of what he said. Essentially, there needs to be some changes at VA to make things more efficient and customer friendly. Also, the contracts that currently are in use at VA needs to be reviewed. After reviewing only 2% of these contracts, VA was able to eliminate over \$900 million in savings that will be able to be used to make veteran health care better! VA has never been perfect and it never will be, but changes need to be made to make it more efficient and that is what they are going to do. Change is hard, and it is unfortunate that anyone has to lose their job, but the bottom line is that we are here to serve the VETERAN, and anything we do should be with that in mind FIRST. Hopefully all these changes will improve access to care, quality of care, and overall outcomes of care! Let me know your thoughts!

*Brian J Murphy, LCSW, MSW*

**VA/DoD Liaison Program**

Office: 719-526-9675 Cell: 719-930-4147

Brian.Murphy3@va.gov or Brian.J.Murphy44.civ@mail.mil





## From *The Centennial's* Editor

Do you enjoy reviewing/editing stories and documents? Are you proficient using Microsoft Word? Are you a member of our Post 209 family (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders)? Do you have four hours of time spread throughout the month to give to our Post?

If you answered yes to the questions above, contact me at [legionnairejay@yahoo.com](mailto:legionnairejay@yahoo.com) or call me at 901-484-7193. Why? We need an editor. I've been doing this for several years and with my travel schedule and impending election to serve as The American Legion's National Commander, I will very soon no longer be able to serve as our newsletter editor.

We REALLY don't want to chance letting this periodical slip. Our members want and need to hear from us monthly, and we have found this is a great way to share what we are doing and planning to do. I will help get you started, but it really isn't that difficult, and it is not that time-consuming. **So step up and reach out!**

Let's keep this nationally award-winning newsletter going.

*Jay Bowen*  
Editor



## From Our Auxiliary Unit Secretary

Unit officers for 2025-2026 will be elected at the next general membership meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Nominations will be accepted from the floor along with the following slate: President-Pat Weaver, Vice President-Vacant, Secretary-Vacant, Treasurer-Kellie Hayes, Chaplain-Priscilla O'Donnell, Historian-Vacant, and Sgt-at-Arms-Kris Joyce and Pauline McCauley. As you can see we have three positions with no one running. If you are interested in a position please send an email to Jackie Bowen, [jackbowen2005@yahoo.com](mailto:jackbowen2005@yahoo.com) stating "If elected for \_\_\_\_\_ I will serve." Remember, breakfast is at 9 AM and the meeting is at 10 AM. Hope to see you at the meeting. Also, Happy Birthday to all the lovely ladies with birthdays in April.

*Pat Weaver*  
Unit Secretary





## From Our Auxiliary – Garage Sale!

We are having a **Garage Sale 17 May!** See the flyer with information and signup sheet later in this newsletter edition. We are also looking for volunteers to help setup, manage, and clean up after the event. If you can give us a couple of hours, or if you want/need more information, contact Kellie Hayes or Jay Bowen.

*Jackie Bowen*  
Executive at Large



## From our Auxiliary Election Committee – Apr

Let me introduce your Unit's election committee; Jackie Bowen, [jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com), Cathy Barger [catbarger68@outlook.com](mailto:catbarger68@outlook.com), and Fran Worthington [bfworthington@aol.com](mailto:bfworthington@aol.com). If you would like to run for any of the officer positions listed below let one of the committee members know. Also, please send an email to Jackie stating, "If elected to the position of \_\_\_\_\_ I will accept." This in case something comes up and you can't attend the meeting in April when elections are held.

In March we will be taking nominations for all Officer positions. Below is a list of Officer positions and a short description of the position:

President – to conduct meetings of the Unit and Unit Executive committee

Vice-President – assist the President and in the absence of the President, perform those duties

Secretary – record/publish all proceedings and maintain those recordings

Treasurer – receive and disperse 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 those reports to Department

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



## From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

As we step into April, we welcome the season of renewal, growth, and action. Spring is a time of renewal—a moment to honor the past while embracing the future. It offers us the chance to reflect on the sacrifices of those who came before us and renew our commitment to service, remembrance, and camaraderie. It's also the perfect opportunity to re-engage with our squadron, recommit to our shared mission, and set our sights on the meaningful work we can accomplish together.

Our Squadron's strength lies in each of you—your dedication, your contributions, and your unwavering support for veterans, their families, and our community. Every meeting attended, every event supported, and



every act of service strengthens our impact and ensures that those who rely on us continue to receive the care and respect they deserve.

As we look ahead, read the events listed in our Historian's article this month and let us find inspiration in the historic moments that shaped our nation's military legacy. These events serve as powerful reminders of the courage, resilience, and sacrifices made by our service members.

May these historic moments inspire us to stay engaged and committed to our mission, ensuring that our service and dedication continue to make a lasting impact. Whether it's through volunteering, attending meetings, supporting a veteran, or simply sharing the values of the Sons of the American Legion, every action—no matter how small—makes a difference.

As always, I challenge each of you to remain involved in our Squadron's efforts. Bring a friend to a meeting, lend a hand at an event, or take a moment to thank a veteran for their service. Together, we ensure that the sacrifices of our nation's heroes are never forgotten.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our mission and the legacy we uphold. Your commitment strengthens our squadron, our community, and the country we love.

For God and Country!

*Chris Hollingsworth*  
SAL Commander



## Post 209 Nominations for Officer positions

We need candidates to fill Post officers' positions for the 2025 – 2026 year. All positions are open but there are a few running for re-election. These are the positions that are wide open: Adjutant, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, Historian, and Chaplain. If anyone is interested in filling one of these positions, please contact Stanley Hamamoto at [pastorstan41228@gmail.com](mailto:pastorstan41228@gmail.com), Marvin Weaver at [weavermr@q.com](mailto:weavermr@q.com), or Jeff Heischman at [jeffheman@netzero.net](mailto:jeffheman@netzero.net). Tell them what position you are interested in, your full name, and telephone number. American Legion Post 209 has many members who have been in these position in the past and they are always there to help you when asked. Even the current members who now fill these positions will gladly help you when asked.

For your convenience, here's a short description of all officer positions:

**Commander:** You are entrusted with supervising 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, and minutes of meetings, checks up, and assists with the work of the other officers and Committees. In addition, you publish official orders, announcements, and instructions.

**Senior Vice Commander:** Your primary role is membership. No Post can survive without a strong membership. You should 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 your Post. The Commander will depend on you to provide programs that spice up the meetings and attract attendance. You should contact other veteran and civic organizations so that each patriotic holiday and observance receives the attention it deserves. You are concerned with the pageantry of The American Legion. You should also be concerned with the welfare of all fellow veterans and Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Committees.

**Finance Officer:** You will serve as chair of the Finance Committee and will be responsible for receiving and disbursing Post funds. You will work closely with the Post Adjutant in all matters related to the finances of your Post.

**Service Officer:** You should be a dedicated person with 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 by law. You must know how to utilize the expert services available through Legion channels and local agencies. You should be ready to visit dependents upon a service member's death. You may be called upon to serve as chair of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee, working with children and youth committees, or making hospital visitations and 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. When requested, you should be ready to officiate at the funerals of members. The Chaplain must also be prepared to serve the bereaved families of Post members.

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** You should know how to arrange the meeting hall and assist the Post Commander and Adjutant. You are the custodian of the Colors and in charge of Colors details during 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 are responsible for preserving and compiling our Post's records/photos (specifically through our Scrapbook and website). It would help if you tried 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 and are entrusted with the government and management of the Post. You shall be responsible for representing the interests of the general membership to the Executive Committee.

**Judge Advocate:** You provide professional advice in conducting Post business or assist in procuring 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.

More information about these positions can be found in the 2024 Officers Guide, beginning on page 7. A copy can be downloaded from the Legion.org website. Just search for Publications and select the 2024 Officer's Guide. <https://www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/publications/organization-membership-awards>

## From Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

Last month, I had the privilege and honor of attending and speaking at an American Legion Birthday dinner event at Longmont Post 32. At the dinner, American Legion Auxiliary Past Department President Susie Bozella shared a poem she had written for the occasion. I was so moved by her poem, I asked if I could share it with our membership in this newsletter edition.

So, for your reading pleasure, here's the poem.

### **Ode to the American Legion on its 106th Birthday**

T 'was at an Auxiliary meeting that someone did say,  
"Let's host a Legion birthday dinner on a cold winter's day."  
"Oh yes, they deserve it, you know that they do,  
For the sacrifices they made for me and for you."

A member did say, "tell me about these women and these men."  
Belonging to Post 32, proud Legion members, all 710.  
They answered the call of the military to join.  
Little did they know about where they were going!

Selfless, they put others' needs before their own  
Dedicated and steadfast by their actions that were shown.  
Families and loved ones were sadly left behind,  
As the soldier sat thinking, "Have I lost my mind?"  
Where am I going? What will happen to me?  
I know that this War is raging to keep other people free.

Training had made each one physically and mentally strong,  
They entered the battle, did what they had to, hoping it was not wrong.  
Lifetime friendships they forged in the field, the air, and the sea.  
Brothers fighting valiantly in the face of adversity.

Even today those comrades are treasured  
With loyalty and honor beyond all measure.  
Fifty or sixty years later these heroes are here at Post 32  
Look around and thank them for defending me and you.

The American Legion has existed so long in this town  
That no one can remember when it wasn't around.  
A Veterans club that has a mission so proud,  
"Let's help other veterans!" They yell it out loud.  
"Be The One!" Who asks a stranger, "Just what can I do?"  
"We are your brothers and sisters, and we're all here for you."

American Legion, Post 32,

We wish you “Happy Birthday” all year through.  
With gratitude and thankfulness tonight we honor you,  
You are a very special veteran and believe me that is true!

**THANKS**

From the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 32  
By Susie Bozella  
Secretary, Unit 32  
March 15, 2025



**Salty Dog**

**HEAD:**

In sailing vessels, the head is the ship's toilet. The name derives from sailing ships in which the toilet area for the regular sailors was placed at the head or bow of the vessel.



*Marvin Weaver, Jr.*  
Post 209 Adjutant





## Bringing A Little South to the West

Growing up in the 60's, every kid in the neighborhood carried a pocket knife. We even took them to school. And you know what, nobody got stabbed...at least on purpose. A pocket knife had many uses; we could peel an apple, whittle a stick, play games like Mumblety Peg or Stretch, and sometimes use it to pick food out of our teeth.

I don't recall any kid we hung out with that didn't have a pocket knife. They came in a variety of sizes, lengths, and age. Some were very old, but they were the best. They were much better built than the newer ones and much more sturdy. Most were kept very sharp and we would occasionally test them by trying to shave the hair on our forearm. If we could do that with ease, the blade was considered to have a proper edge. If not, we'd normally harass the kid who didn't take proper care of their knife.

Whittling was a great pastime. Just pick up any size stick and start shaving away at one end. Often, we had no idea what we were making, we'd just whittle. As we went along, it would sometimes start to resemble something and then we would create a work of art that was cool and slick. Or we would just whittle until we put a point at the end of the stick.

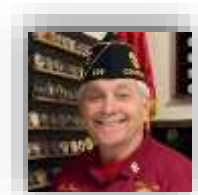
Games with a pocket knife were something different. Mumblety Peg was a favorite. We would start on one side of our hand and arm, placing the point on a different appendage at a time, starting with our thumb and working across all fingers and we would "flip" the knife and make it stick in the ground. We'd work all five fingers first, then lay it in the palm and flip, then on the back of the hand and flip, and then the wrist, elbow, shoulder, forehead (you had to be very careful here), nose (again, very careful), chin, and down the other side. If you missed on the first try, you could pass the knife to the next person or take a chance with one more try. But if you missed the second time, you had to start all over when your time came back around. The last person to successfully complete the task lost the game and had to root a peg or matchstick out of the ground with their nose and pick it up with their teeth while mumbling (get the name now?).

Stretch was a little different and could only be played with two people standing face-to-face about three feet apart with legs standing at something resembling attention. Each would get one turn to flip their pocket knife some distance parallel to the other person's legs. If the knife stuck in the ground, that person had to "stretch" to where the knife landed. They would then get their turn to do the same. This would go on until someone stuck the knife in the ground too far for their opponent to reach. No peg had to be rooted. This was just bragging rights.

Most kids today either don't carry a pocket knife or are not allowed to carry one. And you absolutely don't want to get caught with one on school grounds. Proper handling of a pocket knife is no different than the proper handling of a bicycle or scooter. You learn to operate and/or use them safely and respect what and how to properly use them.

I still carry a pocket knife unless traveling by air. I no longer use it to clean food out of my teeth, but I can still peel an apple with it and whittle. I just can't find anyone who wants to play Mumblety Peg or Stretch.

*Jay Bowen*  
Past Commander



## UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR  
HAWAIIAN NIGHT DINNER

### *Fundraiser*

TO SUPPORT & RAISE FUNDS FOR  
CANDIDATE

JOHN W. "JAY" BOWEN



2026 -2027

**National Commander**

**(50/50 Raffle)**

**(Silent Auction)**

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**FRIDAY 6:00 pm 11 APRIL, 2025**

**3613 Jeannie Drive, Colorado Springs, Co 80917**

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#### Hawaiian Menu

**Entrée's:** Kalua Pork, Teriyaki Chicken, Meatballs, Island Mac Salad, Rice, Fried Noodle, Lumpia, Green Salad. **Dessert's:** Butter Mochi (coconut flavored dessert), Upside Down Pineapple cupcake and cookies

**Adults \$20.00 Children 7-15 \$10.00 6 and Below (free)**

**Choice of Dining in the Post or Take Out order**

**RSVP NO LATER THAN NOON TUESDAY April 8th to Jackie Bowen**  
at [jackiebowlen2005@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiebowlen2005@yahoo.com) or 901-481-0673 or via our website [here](#).



## Post 209 is Having a Garage Sale!

Nope, we're not selling garages, but if you have stuff you've been hoarding/saving and want to get rid of it, you are welcomed and encouraged to rent a space at the Post to sell those things and clean out your garage.

**What Day?** 17 May, 2025

**What Time?** 9:00am to 3:00pm

**Where?** American Legion Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Drive

**Cost?** \$10 for a small table space; \$20 for large table space (you must provide your own tables). All proceeds go to the Post Improvement fund.

**Who Profits From the Sale?** You, if you rent a space and man the table.

If you don't want to mess with selling it, we will gladly take it off your hands as a donation and sell it and the Post will keep the profits from the sale. Please note, if your saved "treasures" don't sell, you will need to take it back home or they will be donated. We simply do not have storage space at the Post. And we cannot accept any donations prior to Friday evening, 16 May.

Volunteers are needed to help with setup and running the Garage Sale. We would greatly appreciate giving us a few hours of your time to help. Even if you can only help with setup or manning a table, any help for any length of time is appreciated. A volunteer signup sheet will be at the Post by the Soda bar.

For more information, contact Kellie Hayes at [hayeskelliej@yahoo.com](mailto:hayeskelliej@yahoo.com) or Jay Bowen at [legionnairejay@yahoo.com](mailto:legionnairejay@yahoo.com)

### American Legion Post 209 Garage Sale Table Request

3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80917

- May 17, 2025 from 9am to 3pm.
- Set up will be at 7pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> or 7am on the 17<sup>th</sup>.
- All proceeds from the Garage sale will be going to the Post Improvement fund.
- For information, please call Kellie Hayes at 719-494-7167 or send an e-mail to [hayeskelliej@yahoo.com](mailto:hayeskelliej@yahoo.com). Registration deadline is May 1st or when all booths are taken. Please complete the registration form and return with payment to Kellie Hayes, 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80917 or scan and e-mail to [hayeskelliej@yahoo.com](mailto:hayeskelliej@yahoo.com).

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to set up on \_\_\_\_\_ Friday (May 16th at 7pm)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Saturday (May 17th at 7am)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Small Table space (8' max) (must provide your own tables) \$10  
\_\_\_\_\_ Large Table space (must provide your own tables) \$20

Total amount due \_\_\_\_\_ (Make checks payable to AL Post 209 Club Acct)

Authorized signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





**1<sup>st</sup> Annual Neal Thomas Jr.  
 Centennial Post 209 Golf Tournament**  
**Where:** Antler Creek Golf Course, Peyton, CO  
**When:** Saturday, 31 May, 2025  
**Time:** Player Check-in 7:00 am  
 Shotgun Start 8:00am – Scramble Format



**Let's support a GREAT cause! Invite your boss, neighbors, friends, and/or family to come along and play. Join us for a fun day of Golf and support our local area Veterans!**

This will be played in a modified 4-person Scramble format with optional on-course side games, followed by lunch and an awards ceremony. The entry fee is \$125 per-player which includes; **Green Fees, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Team Ball, Range Balls, Golf Cart, Lunch, Door Prizes, and Awards.** Team/player check-in will begin at 7:00am, followed by a "shotgun" start at 8:00am. Teams/Players must pre-pay for the event. Payments can be by cash, check, or credit card. **The Registration form and payment must be received by Tuesday, 6 May, 2025. Payment may be made through mailed check, cash or money order with this form to; American Legion Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917 (Pls indicate "Golf Tournament" on payments). Alternatively, payment may be made through the Post PayPal account at <https://legion209.org/ppcc-products/867> (pls indicate "Golf" in the comments along with org, player name(s), & contact information).** Contact the Committee Chairman below with any questions.

This is a charitable fundraiser event sponsored by our Post. Proceeds will be used to support our Veteran programs at the local & national levels. The American Legion works within our local communities to promote our four pillars; support for veterans and their families, continuing education of our youth, promoting Patriotism and Americanism, and advocating for a strong national defense.

**TEAM NAME:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Entry fee</u>
			\$125
			\$125
			\$125
			\$125

\*Asterisk Team Captain / Main POC.

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your support!

Chip Underwood, Golf Committee Chairman  
[Post209Golf@gmail.com](mailto:Post209Golf@gmail.com)  
 719-210-6180



**Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209  
The American Legion  
Colorado Springs, Colorado**

1 April, 2025

Friends of The American Legion and Veterans,

The American Legion, Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 will be hosting its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Neal Thomas Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament on Saturday, 31 May, 2025 at the Antler Creek Golf Course, Peyton, CO. We are respectfully asking your support for this event. Funds raised will enable us to continue to faithfully serve the Veteran Community, both locally and nationwide.

The American Legion is a non-profit organization with a long history dating back to over a century. We are comprised of active-duty military, Veterans, and their families who believe in providing support for Veterans rehabilitation, national security initiatives, youth enrichment, and Americanism. The American Legion Post 209 was established in 1976 to assist the veterans of our Colorado communities through our comradery and support of our fellow veterans. We are the largest American Legion Post in Colorado with a Legion family of over 1,100 strong.

The programs listed below are just a few that Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 support in our community each year:

Veterans Affairs claims and appeals	Emergency financial support for Veterans & families
Homeless Veteran Stand Down	Veteran retirement home support
College Scholarships for HS Students	Boys and Girls State program
Veteran Legacy scholarships	6 Scout charter sponsorships
Junior Shooting sports/safety	Patriotic holiday ceremonies
National children's safety night	Southern Colorado Honor Flight
Veteran Service Animal Training	Colorado Kids Welfare Fund

Post 209 can only continue to support programs like these and many more, both locally and nationwide, through its members' volunteering efforts, donations from generous members of our community, and local businesses like yours.

There are several ways you can help; please see the attached page of sponsorship options and/or to make a single donation.



**Call us at (719) 599-8624 if you need help  
Veterans Crisis Line 988, prompt 1 or text 838255**

We are a Non-Profit 501c (19), Tax Exempt EID: 51-0175267.

**The registration deadline for play and sponsorships is Tuesday, 6 May - please register early and we hope to see you there!**

Please contact me with any questions and/or to coordinate donations and a huge "Thank You" for your support!

Respectfully,  
Chip Underwood, Golf Committee Chairman  
[Post209Golf@gmail.com](mailto:Post209Golf@gmail.com)  
719-210-6180

## Golf Tournament Sponsorship Opportunities

Partial Sponsorships below may be available

### Host Sponsor: \$5,000 – 2 Each

Signage at Registration  
Recognition as the Presenting Sponsor on our website for 1 year  
Opportunity to include item in each swag bag  
Social media recognition  
Opportunity to provide and handout golf prizes  
Opportunity to speak at the luncheon  
Ability to provide up to 4 players at no cost

### Lunch Sponsor: \$2,500 – 1 Each

Signage at Registration  
Signage in the Dining Room  
Recognition on our website for 1 year  
Opportunity to include item in each swag bag  
Social media recognition  
Ability to provide up to 2 players at no cost

### Putting Contest Sponsor: \$1,250 – 1 Each

Signage at Registration  
Signage at Putting contest  
Recognition on our website  
Social media recognition  
Ability to provide 1 player at no cost

### Breakfast Sponsor: \$1,000 – 1 Each

Signage in the Dining Room  
Signage at Registration  
Social media recognition  
Recognition on our website

### Golf Ball Sponsor: \$1,000 – 1 Each

Signage at Registration  
Social media recognition  
Recognition on our website  
Ability to provide a sleeve of logo balls in the swag bags

### Hole Sponsors: \$300

Signage with logo on the hole  
Recognition on our website  
Manned Table at the hole

**Other donations for swag bags and/or silent auction are greatly appreciated.**

**I'm unable but would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

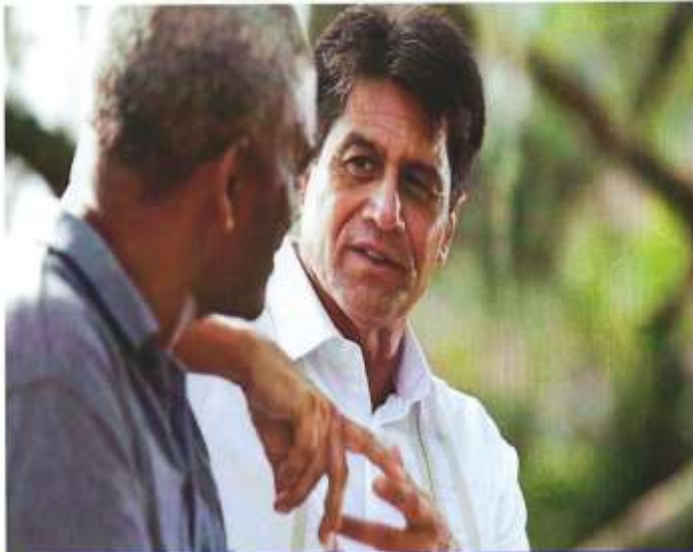
**Make checks payable to:**

The American Legion, Post 209  
3613 Jeannine Dr.

Colorado Springs, CO 80917

or via the Post 209 PayPal account at <https://legion209.org/ppec-products/867/> (pls indicate "Golf" in the comments along with org, player name(s), & contact information).

## Tips for Confronting a Veteran in Crisis!

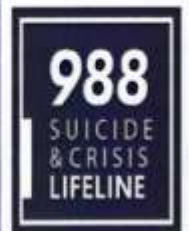


**ASK A FELLOW VETERAN**  
**CARE FOR A FELLOW VETERAN**  
**EMBRACE A FELLOW VETERAN**

Always ask questions 1 and 2.	Past Month	
1) Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up?		
2) Have you actually had any thoughts about killing yourself?		
If YES to 2, ask questions 3, 4, 5 and 6. If NO to 2, skip to question 6.		
3) Have you been thinking about how you might do this?	High Risk	
4) Have you had these thoughts and had some intention of acting on them?		
5) Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Did you intend to carry out this plan?	High Risk	
Always Ask Question 6	Life-time	Past 3 Months
6) Have you done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life?  <small>Examples: Took pills, tried to shoot yourself, cut yourself, tried to hang yourself, took out pills but didn't swallow any, held a gun but changed your mind or it was grabbed from your hand, went to the roof but didn't jump, collected pills, obtained a gun, gave away valuables, wrote a will or suicide note, etc.</small> <b>If yes, was this within the past 3 months?</b>		High Risk

If YES to 2 or 3, seek behavioral healthcare for further evaluation. If the answer to 4, 5 or 6 is YES, get **immediate help**: Call or text 988, call 911 or go to the emergency room. **STAY WITH THEM** until they can be evaluated.

Download Columbia Protocol App





**SAL**



# **SAFETY INITIATIVE**

Sons of the American Legion  
Squadron 209 will replace and install  
smoke detector batteries at no cost for  
veterans in financial need or with  
physical limitations

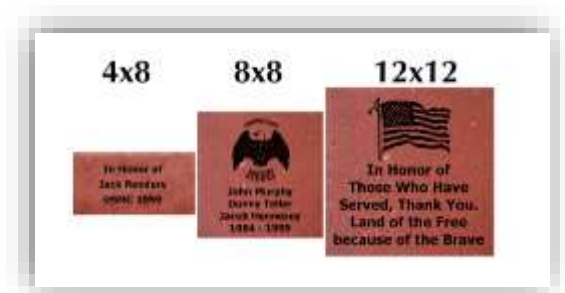
Contact SQ 209:  
Rob Barry  
719-930-5725  
[colo.rsb@yahoo.com](mailto:colo.rsb@yahoo.com)



Made with PosterMyWall.com

# Walk of Honor

- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering desired but typically range from \$75 to \$200, depending on size.
- **What are the costs for the corporate/veteran supporter bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$125 to \$500.
- **What is the difference between individual and corporate bricks?** Individual bricks are for veterans and family members wishing to purchase a brick to honor their veterans. The corporate bricks are for our veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who want to show their continued support for our nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the brick purchase restricted to members of the Post 209 families?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves for their veteran loved ones or to show their support for our veterans.
- **Where do I go to buy a brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit [legion209.org](http://legion209.org) and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. In addition, you will see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How do I pay for the brick?** We have the site set up to accept payment via PayPal or 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 sent 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 in the area we call the Walk of Honor.
- **How long will this fundraiser effort last?** We plan to continue selling bricks until the Walk of Honor is covered with personalized bricks.
- **Will I have an opportunity to buy a brick later?** Quite possibly, depending 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 projects. If you buy multiple bricks, let our Adjutant know, and we will ensure they are all placed together.**

# Celebrate

At  
American Legion  
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

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



## Rental Features:

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

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

Starting at  
**\$350!**



For More Information

[www.legion209.org/contact\\_us](http://www.legion209.org/contact_us)

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

\*Additional cost may apply



## PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

### Young Guns



NRA-Accredited members of Sons of The American Legion are sponsors and instructors for the Young Guns program. This basic rifle safety and marksmanship course are offered to boys and girls ages 10-18. Shooting is indoors, using air rifles.

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>

### Scouting Programs

The Post 209 family is the charter partner with the following Boy Scouts of America (BSA) units:



- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls): p24@legion209.org
- Cub Scout Pack 26 (Boys and Girls): p26@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 77 (Girls): t77@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 79 (Boys): t79@legion209.org
- Venture Crew 762 (Young men and women ages 14-20): c762@legion209.org

### Boys and Girls State



Boys State and Girls State are for high school juniors going into their senior year with at least one semester left.

- BOYS STATE [www.colegionboysstate.org/](http://www.colegionboysstate.org/)
- GIRLS STATE [www.alacolorado.org/girls-state](http://www.alacolorado.org/girls-state)

### Oratorical Contest



This Nationwide contest is designed to develop a more profound knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.




















[www.colegionoratorical.org](http://www.colegionoratorical.org)




### Eagle Scout of the Year



The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year nomination window is from **1 November to 1 March**. Nomination packets must be received by each applicant's respective The American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than 1 March.

<https://legion209.org/Scouting/>

April 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Healing Warriors! 9:00am-4:30pm	<b>2</b>  Marksmanship 4:45pm-8:00pm	<b>3</b> Exec. Cmtee Mtg 6:00pm  Young Guns 6:15pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>4</b> Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	<b>5</b>  Honor Bell Meeting 10:00am
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>8</b> Healing Warriors! 9:00am-4:30pm Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm 	<b>9</b>  Marksmanship 4:45pm-8:00pm	<b>10</b> Young Guns 6:15pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>11</b> <b>\$20/Person</b>  Luau Fundraising Dinner! 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b>	<b>12</b> <b>ELECTIONS!</b> Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>15</b> Tax Day (Taxes Due) Healing Warriors! 9:00am-4:30pm ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Holy Thursday  Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>18</b> Good Friday <b>\$12/Person</b> ALR Fish Fry 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	<b>19</b> Easter Egg Hunt 3:00pm-5:00pm 
<b>20</b> Easter	<b>21</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>22</b> Earth Day Healing Warriors! 9am-4:30pm ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30/ALR 6:45  	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>25</b> Arbor Day ALA Dinner 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>29</b> Healing Warriors! 9:00am-4:30pm	<b>30</b>	Notes:		

May 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: No morning membership meeting this month.				<b>1</b>  Venture Crew 7:00pm Exec. Cmttee Mtg 6:00pm 	<b>2</b> Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	<b>3</b>  Honor Bell Meeting 10:00am
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Cinco De Mayo Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>6</b> Healing Warriors! 9:00am-4:30pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Installation Ceremony 4:30pm Dinner 6:00pm   
<b>11</b> Mother's Day	<b>12</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>13</b> Healing Warriors! 9:00am-4:30pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Armed Forces Day Garage Sale! 9:00am-3:00pm
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>20</b> Healing Warriors! 9:00am-4:30pm ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	<b>21</b> Girls State Ice Cream Social! 7:00pm-8:30pm	<b>22</b>  Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Memorial Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>27</b> Healing Warriors! 9am- ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30/ALR 6:45  	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Post 209 Golf Tournament!