

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander



What a fantastic month for Post 209. We have come together to voice our opinions and to provide our voices to who will lead Post 209 into the future. As we hope for every year, we want there to be choices when it is time to vote for the leadership. In reviewing this year, we had some positions that required a vote from the membership. I hope soon that all positions will have a couple of legionnaires running for each position so as to give choice to our members. Start mentoring today so that you are ready for the next year's election process.

As I look back on the past year, I continue to smile as I watch members get involved and assist where and when possible. I know from experience it takes a commitment to get involved and to let your voice be heard. The need for volunteers is continually growing within the Post. As I have said in the past, it is our total voice, not our individual voice that gets things done for Veterans. We are developing schedules weekly and I know there is a place for you and your family to help us at the Post. Please talk to the leadership today!

Our installation of officers is coming on May 14, 2016. Please show your support to the leadership who are leaving and to the new leaders of the Post. The installation starts at 5:00 pm and the banquet starts at 6:00 pm. It is chicken fried steak. Bring the whole family to learn where the post is going. Please RSVP today.

Be patient, breathe, and live in the moment...Because you will never repeat the same memories as you are making at this moment again.

I want all of our members to have a voice and support all who have developed a passion to help Veterans. We are striving to become the largest post in the State of Colorado. Please help us achieve this goal and allow our success to be the model for other Posts and the upcoming young Veterans. **We are a 100% post**, which means we owe congratulations to all of our members who introduced them to our Post; it also means we have to continue to strive for membership. This is how our voices are heard in the state, nation, and country. Each of us has a special skill and the American Legion needs you. Post 209 needs you so we can continue to help Veterans in the community.

Taskings that will help programs and membership to grow... helping the Post continue to reduce expenses and find funds to help Veterans; find a location for all programs within the Post to display their successes; develop a greater list of folks who can volunteer for events the Post is supporting, sponsoring, or just needing help with each month; and work to increase the Veterans who can volunteer for our honor/color guard. Each of these are of importance to Post 209 and will require members to bond together and discuss as groups, ad hoc committees, and the like.

The District 7 Convention is coming on May 7th, 2016. It will be at our Post home from 1:00 to 5:00. Lunch will be provided. The Convention is designed to help attendees learn what is going on in the District and to also participate in the District elections. Please attend and watch the process of selecting the upcoming leadership for District 7. The Department of Colorado Commander will be in attendance to conduct the installation of officers.

On May 23rd there will be a walk for Veterans at Garden of the Gods. It is the mission of our National Commander to visit cities throughout the country and share a message to local communities...Walk for Veterans. The walk is scheduled to start at 3:00. Get involved in showing the community we care about our Veterans. Tell your peers, friends, colleagues, and families. A specially designed t-shirt is able to help show your support. Call the Post to order yours.

As I look back on these past 2 years, I will say this was a duty I enjoyed and was needed to help Veterans in the community. I look forward to the transition and helping to mentor those advancing in the Post. There are many things to share and to enjoy at our Post. Please tell all that you know; Post 209 is the American Legion Family at its finest.

For God and Country, in God We Trust



From the Unit 209 President
Jackie Bowen

NO MAY MEETING. We will hold a joint installation of officers starting at 5:00pm May 14th beginning with the Legionnaires. Following the installations we will have dinner. Your new officers are: President, Cathy Barger; Vice President, Pat Weaver; Secretary, Lynn Thomas; Treasurer, Kellie Hayes; Chaplain, Jackie Burd; Sgt-at-Arms, Donna Testorff; and Historians, Donna Rae Smith and Rose Loewe. They will take over in June after the Department Convention. Thank you ladies for stepping up and continuing to serve our Veterans. Happy Birthday to Cathy Barger, Lori Barger, Laurel Harman, Kris Mueller, and Tiffany Weaver. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

We were informed that the Department Auxiliary will be voting in June to raise their dues by \$5 for Seniors' and raise the Juniors' dues to \$5. At our April meeting we voted to raise our Unit dues. Beginning with your 2017 renewals in July this year, you will pay \$30 for Seniors and \$8 for Juniors. Our dues are the only continuous money we have coming in. The breakdown right now is the Unit keeps \$5 of the \$25 paid in, the rest goes to Department. Department keeps their portion which I believe is \$6 and the rest goes to National.

I want to thank Kellie Hayes for taking charge and making the Knife fundraiser a success.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for making the National President's visit to our Unit a great success. Lunch was delicious, and several ladies from the Unit and District were there to meet and greet President Sharon Conatser. The luncheon was also attended and supported by several of our Post and Squadron members.

Serving our Veterans Proudly,



2016 Membership Drive
Senior Vice Commander Lino Calica



Congratulations, I am proud to inform you that the Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 membership drive has reached 100% of our Department's goal. This would not have been possible without your support, hard work and dedication in recruiting new members and renewing your own membership. I thank you with heartfelt appreciation. We have met our 2016 membership goal of 1,000 members. Now we would like to meet Commander Greg's goal of being the #1 Post in the state. Your continued support is needed. I challenge all members to talk to your friends and family and recruit just 1 new member. If we all work together we will be able to meet and beat the commander's goal 1057 members before the Convention.

The key to growth and success at our Post is to lead by example and to serve the needs of our Veterans and their families. Remember the 3R's:

RECRUIT- New members **RETAIN** - Existing Members, **REBUILD** - For the Future.

Mahalo nui loa, *(Thank you)*



From the Adjutant
Marvin Weaver, Jr.

The Post Executive Committee has been discussing ways to offset the cost of printing and mailing out the newsletters each month. We have decided to sell space in the newsletters for people to put their business cards. The business cards cannot have prices on them. The card will be in both the print and online versions of our newsletter. The cost will be \$20 a month, \$50 for three months, \$100 for 6 months, and \$175 for a year. To have your business card incorporated into the newsletters please see Rusty Bower or me.

The District 7 Convention will be held this year at Post 209 on Saturday May 7th starting at 1 pm. Department Officers will be there giving out information that has been going on the last year in the State; you will also be able to find out what has been happening the last year within the District. The District Officers for the next year will be elected at this Convention.

As of the time we I am writing this we just exceeded our goal of 1,000 members. We can't stop now, we are less than 10 away from being #1 in the State. If you have not renewed yet please do so. We still your help.



May. The Young Guns finished their spring class on Wednesday April 6th with awards, pizza and fun! Twelve students graduated including five young men and seven young ladies. The young ladies swept the competition taking home top shot awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place! Three Bullseye awards were also given for hitting a “10” during the competition. A drawing was held and one lucky winner took home a \$25 gift card.

NRA Marksmanship awards were given to three previous graduates. The first graduate received Pro Marksman, Marksman, Marksman 1st Class and Sharpshooter with 5 Bars. The second graduate received Sharpshooter Bars 1,2,3 and 4. The third graduate received the Expert Marksman Award which was given to one of our graduates for the first time.

Two of our very generous supporters were honored with Platinum Patriot Awards. The first was given to Peggy Gray, Chair of the Colorado Springs Friends of the NRA. The FNRA has supported our program with grants for the past three years. The second was presented to Scott Jackson, President of the Pikes Peak Firearm Coalition. The PPFCA has given us grants for the past two years.

We have a new Junior Shooting class starting on September 14th. The class is limited to 12 students and there are 10 openings at this time. We meet on Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:30pm for the 9 week course. The class is held at Post 209. The cost of the course is \$25 and that is the only cost students will incur. We provide Air Rifles, Safety glasses, books and all related equipment. We have NRA Certified Instructors and NRA certified Range Safety officers. All Instructors have passed background checks per the American Legion for those working with youth. The class is open to youth ages 10 through 18.

We also do NRA Marksmanship for those who have passed our course or can demonstrate gun safety and handling skills. There will be an additional cost for the Marksmanship qualification. This is voluntary and completely separate from the new shooters class. Please call Ken for details.

You can check us out on Facebook where there are pictures and a video. Just go to legion209.org and click on the Young Guns icon that is on the lower left side of the Home Page.

Ken Taylor; 719-761-4047 or email adjutantsal209@gmail.com.



We Have a New Slate of Officers at Post 209

Well, elections are over. Our April General Membership meeting included electing or re-electing our Post leadership for the 2016/2017 year. We had a couple of positions challenged, resulting in an actual vote. It was good to see so many people interested in serving our community and our Post. Congratulations to the following Post Officers for the 2016/2017 year:

Commander; Mike Barger

Jr. Vice Commander; Bob Caddell

Finance Officer; Rusty Bower

Sergeant-at-Arms; Stanley “Sgt. Ski” Krasinski

Post Executive Committeeman; Greg Smith

Service Officer; Appointed by the Commander

Judge Advocate; Appointed by the Commander

Sr. Vice Commander; Lino Calica

Adjutant; Marvin Weaver, Jr.

Chaplain; Paul Darrow

Historian; Eric Testorff

They will assume their new role after the Department Convention in June. Please join me in congratulating our new Officers, and let’s all work together to ensure they are successful.



From the Jr. Vice Commander Mike Barger

Well, elections are over, it's time for this year's officers to complete open items that need done. The biggest one left is to get our Post the members needed to become the largest in the state. A lot is expected from being the largest Post, and I know if we can get there, we have what it takes to fulfill that responsibility.

The month of May will be busy with the District Convention coming to Post 209 on May 7th. Come out and show support for our Post Commander, Greg Smith, for he will be running for District Commander. On May 14th, we will be having our installation of the new officers elected in April. No breakfast or membership meeting that day. Installation begins at 5 pm and dinner will be after. Make sure to RSVP for the dinner.

Then on May 21st, the Run for the Wall comes back through Fountain and will skirt the eastern side of Colorado Springs. They will be riding through Fountain and then cut across to Markshuffel and then onto Highway 24. If you have a chance to come out and show your support for the riders that are going from California to Washington DC, please do so. It's an amazing site to see 300 to 400 motorcycles all riding for the same cause, (They ride for those that can't).

Finally on May 23rd, National Commander will be coming to Colorado Springs, to participate in the Commander walk. It will be held in the Garden of the Gods beginning at 3 pm. Dinner will be served afterwards at the Post, so make sure to RSVP for it. Come on out and meet our National Commander, Dale Barnett.

Also, I hope you had a chance to see the new mural in the main meeting room. It was provided by Randall Schneider (Raintree) from Raintree Creations. It sure makes the room pop. Thanks to the folks that provided the private donation to get this done. We're truly thankful for it.

Remember, there's Veterans out there that may need a little help, so when we're called on, let's continue to step up and show them why we're called family.



Let's Go On A Nature Walk With the National Commander

Dale Barnett, The American Legion National Commander will visit Colorado in May, and he wants to include Colorado Springs in his visit to the Rocky Mountain State. Every State he visits, Commander Barnett wants the community to turn out and "Walk For Veterans." He encourages Departments to schedule a Nature Walk somewhere in their community and invite anyone interested in showing their support to our Nation's Heroes to come out and walk with him. The "Walk" is for everyone and anyone to show support for Veterans. You don't have to be a Veteran to participate. The more people we can get to walk, the better.

To commemorate the event, he has designed a T-Shirt. Our District Officers will be selling the T-Shirts prior to and at the event for \$10 and we are encouraging all who plan to attend to buy one and wear it that day. All proceeds from the sale of the T-Shirts will go to support the National Commander's project; the National Emergency Fund.

According to his tentative schedule, Commander Barnett will be in Colorado Springs the afternoon of Monday, 23 May. If his schedule doesn't change, we will conduct the walk at the Garden of the Gods, starting at the North Main Parking Lot and will walk for about 1/2 mile around the Kissing Camels rock formation area. We are scheduling the walk to begin at 3:00pm. Later that evening, we plan to host the National Commander for dinner at Post 209, and all are encouraged to attend the dinner, even if you can't make the walk. More details will be announced as the Commander's plans are solidified. Keep watching the Newsletter, our website, and our Facebook page for updates.





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 2016.

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!





From The Commander Squadron 209

Rick Kettering

The past three years as your Squadron Commander have gone by so fast. I have had the greatest honor of being your Commander and watching this Squadron grow and excel over the years. We went from 3 or 4 officers to a full complement in that short time. We started the Young Guns, and the Josh Dog project. Our members have excelled along with the entire Post raising money for the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF). We have members completing their Five Star and The Ten Ideals programs. This is not the end. As we change officers we will grow stronger as a Squadron. I will become the Jr. Vice Commander and keep working with all the programs that I am already involved with.

There are so many people to thank for giving me this opportunity, guidance and help through my term as Commander. I will do my best to help and support our new Commander like I was supported and helped. Thank you all for your friendship and support.

For God and Country,



From the Historian

Eric Testorff

America's One and Only Honorary Veteran

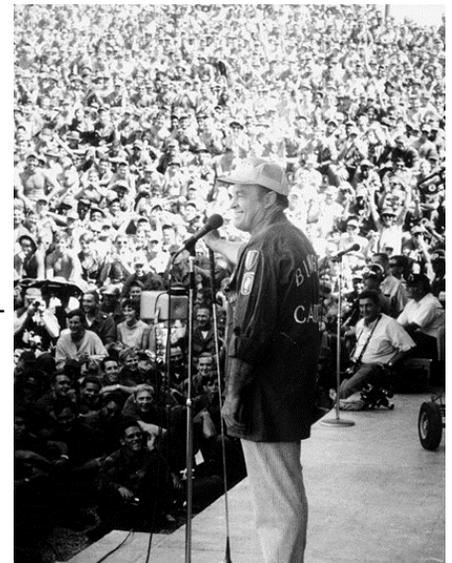
Bob Hope was internationally famous as a star of Vaudeville, radio and the silver screen when World War II broke out. He could have stayed home and sold war bonds like so many others in the entertainment industry, but that just wasn't his style. He performed his first USO show for the troops on May 6, 1941, at March Field, CA, and continued to travel and entertain troops for the remainder of World War II, and later during the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the 1990–1991 Persian Gulf War. While overseas he almost always performed in Army fatigues as a show of support for his audience. Hope's USO career lasted a half-century, during which he headlined approximately 60 tours.

Hope traveled to Vietnam at the height of the war, in 1970 and 1971 respectively, to film Christmas specials for NBC in front of military audiences. These Christmas specials are on the list of the Top 30 US Network Prime-time Telecasts of All Time. Both were seen by more than 60% of the US households watching television. John Steinbeck, himself a WWII war correspondent, would say of Bob Hope that "month after month, he works at a pace that would kill most people."

On his wartime USO tours, Hope had only one ironclad rule that he insisted his fellow performers follow: under no circumstances were they allowed to cry when visiting wounded Soldiers in military hospitals. This was often difficult given the amount of suffering they saw, but he told his performers that it was their duty to always smile and provide laughs and good cheer for the troops. According to Hope, he broke his own rule only once. While visiting an Army hospital in Italy in 1943, he stopped at the bedside of a wounded Soldier who had been in a coma for two months. The Soldier suddenly opened his eyes and said, "Hey, Bob Hope! When did you get here?" Hope had to leave the hospital room to keep the troops from seeing his tears, but he returned a few hours later to present the Soldier with his Purple Heart medal.

Bob Hope appeared in or hosted 199 documented USO shows. Once, when his plane being shot at while he was on his way to perform for the troops, his response to the threat was, "I have critics everywhere."

In October 1997, in honor of Hope's extensive humanitarian work, the members of both houses of Congress unanimously passed Resolution 75 making Bob Hope an Honorary Veteran. President Clinton signed the bill, and Bob Hope became the first and to date the only individual so honored in the history of the United States.





American Legion Riders *Motorcycle Minute*

Andy Gilbert, ALR President

Spring and Love is in the air. We had the honor of having a wedding at our Post. The Bivens' family took great joy in giving their daughter Leah to a fine young man named Zack Jones. They were joined in holy matrimony by none other than Pastor John Coppedge. A very proud father and mother provided a joyful wedding that everyone enjoyed. We want to thank everyone who gave their heart and soul to this blessed event.

The general membership room truly looks beautiful with the new mural that was painted. You will love to see this when the next time your there.

I'd like to mention the importance of having a safe motorcycles and gear. As many of you know, I occasionally leave to meet up with my brothers for a long distance ride. In this case, I was the short distance rider with only 3250 miles. They would log approximately 8,000 miles. They left Connecticut a week prior and drove south to avoid any storms. They then took the southern route and met me in Las Cruces, NM. I got delayed by Icy weather in Santa Fe. I am careful about road conditions when temperatures are below freezing.

We drove to Malibu, CA by way of Phoenix. My brothers are good about keeping up with their safe riding. As we were driving back from California towards Nevada on the old Route 66, we crested a hill. Two of my brothers immediately hit a flash flood which created a wall of water and caused the rest of us to immediately stop. Having proper engine guards allowed them to hit the road safely. They both stayed on the bikes and let the bikes take the punishment. Needless to say, Joseph's bike is totaled and my brother Steve's was damaged pretty good. Metal can be replaced, not my brothers. Despite this slight problem, we did have a great time together as a family.

Thank you for supporting Ken and Sheila's dinner. We can't wait until they are able to ride with us again.



FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK

Pastor Stan

You have already elected new officers for the coming New Year. Now you must all attend the installation of officer's dinner and our regular monthly meeting on May 14, 2016. I did not run for office as your Chaplain because my wife has had some health problems. Being the Chaplain of the Post requires a lot of time and you must try to be at most if not at all of its activities and there are many that go on with our Post. I will be seeking re-election for District and Department Chaplain, because the commitment that is made is not as time consuming as the Post is. I have enjoyed being your Chaplain these past few years and I have made many friends, which I am grateful for. I will continue to be at the meetings and I know that Paul Darrow, your newly elected Chaplain will do a great job for all of you.

I would like to share with you a thought about "Doubt." First is the scripture that goes with it: James 1:5: "But if any of you needs wisdom, you should ask God for it. HE is generous and enjoys giving to all people, so HE will give you wisdom." Words from Max Lucado: "Thomas came with doubts. Did Christ turn him away? Moses had his reservations. Did God tell him to go home? Job has his struggles. Did God avoid him? Paul had his hard times. Did God abandon him? NO! God never turns away the sincere heart. Tough questions don't stump God. HE invites our probing. Mark it down. God never turns away the honest seeker. Go to God with your questions. You may not find all the answers, but in finding God, you know the ONE who does." Prayer: "We pray O Father, that in the hours when we find ourselves in the dungeons of doubt, that YOU will hear our questions. Forgive us for demanding that you answer our questions as we want them answered. Decrease our doubts; increase our faith."

Many times when we ask GOD to help us and there is no help in site, we think that GOD has desecrated us. That is not true, HE never leaves us and HE never allows us to be alone. HE is always next to you, if only you will look in the right direction. Never doubt that GOD is not near you. He always is and will always be by your side, ALWAYS!

My last three words are: GO TO CHURCH!

Shalom!



From the Sergeant-at-Arms
“Sgt. Ski”

Good day all American patriots and family members,

As your Sergeant-at-Arms, I would like to encourage all to come...and bring others...to enjoy Friday dinners with your Legion family here at Post 209. This is one way we can all support and offset the expenses of our Post and all that our Post does.

You know, the first thing you have to do is to care.

Then come.

Then tell others.

Remember in the words of one past historic figure:

“Try not! Do or do not. There is no try.” – Yoda

I look forward to seeing you to enjoy great food and fellowship every Friday evening at your Post 209!

We can only make a difference if we are involved...participants, not spectators.

Thank you for your service and please have a great day!



From the Judge Advocate
Chuck Zeitvogel

Not In My Backyard or if you prefer - NIMBY. NIMBY is a term heard at neighborhood and town hall type meetings. It is kicked around where there is disagreement on projects big and small. Remember all the talk back and forth when oil companies wanted to do explorative drilling for oil gas deep below lands here in El Paso County. Many folks petitioned and spoke against it fearing contamination of water aquifers. What were your thoughts on this issue? I ask just for the sake of discussion. And use it as an example for pros & cons for NIMBY. Few people will actually say it out loud, but there it is. NIMBY! I like to read the letters published in The Gazette, View Section, once called Letters to the Editor. Recent letters discussing or should we “say cussing the caucus system” used here in Colorado. I catch myself agreeing with some but other viewpoints leave me shaking my head and wondering where & how some of these people come-up with their ideas. What do you think about **NIMBY**? Well, the long and short of it is - this is what we spent time in military uniform for; it was to uphold the freedoms and obligations set forth in our Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution. **NIMBY!** Let’s consider something else.

Tax season is over for most of us – there are some of us who may have procrastinated and gotten an extension to file. A gentle reminder, extensions to file do not include extensions to pay. Estimate what is owed and pay it to avoid penalties - www.irs.gov as links to aid in resolving tax questions.

The Time Just Slipped Away. This this seems like a reoccurring theme recently, but this past month I had the opportunity to consider personal things that needed doing. The opportunity came when I woke-up with pain in my back and all the way down my left leg. That was Thursday, first week in April and it would not go away, regardless, I put off calling my doctor. The following Tuesday at the insistence of my spouse we visited a hospital emergency room seeking relief. Spent a day in one of their beds; the caring nurses, technicians, and doctor did what they could which was to draw blood samples and ask a lot of questions. After which they said go home and call your regular doctor we think your sciatic nerve is the problem. After seeing my primary doctor, he prescribed stronger pain medications, to help reduce swelling in my left leg, of course more blood samples. The CAT scan he wanted could not be done due to the type cardiac pacemaker I have. So there was this time to consider personal things. Things most of us need to do, and this is why I’m sharing these thoughts now: (1) Update Wills and Insurance Policies, (2) Thank spouse for support she/he provides. (3) Get busy doing those things on your personal “bucket list. These three things we all need to take care of now. Time waits for no one. What’s done is done. Time to look to the future. Get these 3 things done if you have not already done them.

Post 209’s Officers are here for you, yours, and family. All is offered is because of everyone doing what they can. Volunteers, present, those we have yet to meet; **thank you, thank you** for your service. Come now, be an active part of your Post.



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.

Bringing a Little South to the West

By Immediate Past Commander Jay Bowen

I occasionally get some good-natured ribbing from friends about a perceived accent they say I possess. Interesting thing about accents; often people “pre-judge” someone by the way they speak and from which part of the country they hail. Personally, I don’t mind. I enjoy being thought of as a redneck, because that’s exactly what I am and proud of it!

The only time I really take exception to folks trying to guess where I’m from based on my very slight accent is when they think I’m from Texas. Really? Texas? Texans wish they could speak with the smooth, soothing, sophisticated, and oh so slight accent I have. We Tennessee folks don’t like being confused with the group of people who killed Davy Crockett. Yeah, yeah I know, people from there will argue it was Santa Ana who killed him. But if it wasn’t for Texas, he would not have gone there and he would probably still be alive today. But that’s a story for another day.

In reality, and many will find this hard to believe, I don’t really have an accent at all. I have been mistaken for a mid-westerner at times because I don’t have a discernable accent unless I force it. That’s right, my good ole southern boy accent is fake! After spending 20 years in the Army and traveling around the world, I lost what little accent I had years ago. Apparently, I do a pretty good job talking like a redneck, but it is something I do for the amusement of the people I hang around. I’ve learned that the accent is disarming and many find it folksy. It also covers up my inability to remember names because I just call all the men “budda” or “dude,” and the women “sweetie,” “honey,” or “darling.” A good ole southern boy can get away with doing that, where someone from Colorado or elsewhere is liable to get slapped or slugged.

When I go back to Tennessee, my friends and family often accuse me of sounding like a Yankee. Really? A Yankee? I’d rather be mistaken for a Texan than a Yankee (but not by much). I think most of the south is still recovering from the “War of Northern Aggression” or as some call it, “The Civil War.”

I realize this little revelation comes as quite a shock to many. I’ve carried on this charade for several years. But now it’s time for the big news; nobody from the South talks like that. You’ve seen the commercial where a bunch of cows are in the pasture standing up on their hind legs talking to one another until a carload of people come by. Then they quickly go to all fours and moo. We southerners do something similar. None of us have an accent that differentiates us from the rest of the country. But when an out of state tag is seen on a car or an obvious “foreigner” comes into our midst, we turn on the accent. Otherwise, we just talk like everyone else. So now you have it. Pretty shocking, huh? By the way, in the south, a foreigner is anyone from a different county.

Just remember, the accent only sounds funny here. If you come to Tennessee with me, you’ll be the one who talks funny.



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

Origin of NAVY Terminology **Rusty Bower**



Clean Bill of Health

A certificate signed by a port authority attesting that no contagious disease existed in the port of departure and none of crew were infected with a disease at the time of sailing. Shore-side, it means in good shape.

Rusty Bower
Retired Navy Senior Chief



Post Officers 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Stan Hamamoto	719-322-6959
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-556-8326
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Post Exec. Cmtee	Jay Bowen	901-484-7193
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Jeremy Boltjes	218-831-0475



ALR Officers 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Secretary	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Grady Mitchell	



Auxiliary Officers 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Joan Ciani	719-579-9194
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-3193



Sons of The American Legion 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Sr. Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Commander	Ronny Ross	719-493-2583
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
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

See Back Page for May 2016 Calendar

~ June 2016 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CFS is Chicken Fried Steak Choice of Fish or Chicken Fried Steak on 27 May Steak Night is cancelled in June due to the Annual Convention.			1	2 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	3 Hamdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order.	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	11 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am ALR Ride Beckers/Aspen
12	13	14 Flag Day US Army Birthday!	15	16 Department of Colorado Annual Convention Longmont, CO	17 Department of Colorado Annual Convention Longmont, CO	18 Department of Colorado Annual Convention Longmont, CO
19 Father's Day Department of Colorado Annual Convention Longmont, CO	20 Summer Solstice ALR Executive Board 6:00pm	21	22	23	24 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFSI - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	25
26	27	28 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm	29	30	Notes:	

July 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Canada Day	2
3	4 Happy Independence Day! Post 209 Potluck Picnic 1200 Hrs.	5	6	7 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	8 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	9 Membership Meeting Cancelled for July!
10	11	12	13	14	15 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	16 ALR Ride
17	18 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm	19 \$10.50 Meal National Jr. Shooting Competitors' Dinner Post 208; 1830 hours	20	21	22 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFSI - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	23 National Jr. Shooting Competition; Olympic Training Center
24	25	26 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm	27	28	29	30
31	Notes: CFS is Chicken Fried Steak					



THE AMERICAN LEGION
CENTENNIAL POST 209
P.O. BOX 25334
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80936-5334

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLORADO SPGS, CO
PERMIT NO. 192

Current Resident or,

~ May 2016 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Cinco De Mayo Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	6 Hamdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order. 	7 District 7 Convention Post 209; 1:00pm  
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	14 \$10.50 Installation of Officers 5:00pm; CFS Banquet 6:00pm; No AM  
15	16 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	17	18	19	20 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  	21 Armed Forces Day 
22	23 National Commander Visit; Walk w/Veterans Garden of the Gods Dinner; 5:00pm 	24 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	25	26	27 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFS! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  	28
29	30 Memorial Day Memorial Day 1100 hours, TREA 1200; Lay Flowers at Vietnam Memorial, Memorial Park	31	Notes: CFS is Chicken Fried Steak Choice of Fish or Chicken Fried Steak on 27 May National Commander Dale Barnett Visits. Walk With Veterans at Garden of the Gods; 2:00pm Dinner with Commander Barnett at Post 209; 5:00pm			

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