

CENTENNIAL POST 209 THE AMERICAN LEGION

MAY 1996

The Honorary Trustees
of the
Shrine of Remembrance Veterans Honor Court
Cordially Invites
Member Organizations
of the
Pikes Peak Veterans Council

To a Special Flag Raising Ceremony

To Begin the Memorial Day Holiday
And Dedication of the

Korean War Veterans Memorial

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 27, 1996
at the

Veterans Honor Court
1730 E. Fountain Boulevard
Colorado Springs, Colorado
at 9:30 in the Morning

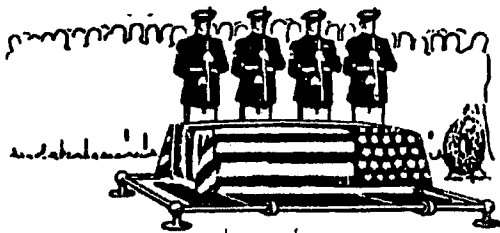
With Coffee and Refreshments to Follow



LEGION NEWS
HARRY JOHNSON
COMMANDER

We are actively working to build a Post Home for Post 209. We have had some problems which slowed us down. Before we purchased the property, we checked to insure that the property was properly zoned for the purpose of building a Post Home, and that we could serve alcoholic beverages. In the three years since we purchased the property, the definition of what you can build in this zone has changed. We are, therefore, going to have to go through the process of changing the zoning to allow us to build a Post Home. We submitted that request on April 19. This can take three months or so. We will be working with the architect on construction plans, contractors' bids and financing so that when approved, we will be ready to start construction.

In the last few weeks, I have been concerned by the lack of enthusiasm and interest from the membership in building a Post Home. I would like to hear from you personally as to how you feel about this project. Is it important to you to have a Post Home? Are the activities that a Post Home offers important to you? Some of the



OFFICERS

COMMANDER	HARRY JOHNSON
SR VICE COMMANDER	HARRY MCFADDEN
JR VICE COMMANDER	CHUCK CLABBERS
ADJUTANT	ANN FOSTER
FINANCE OFFICER	LARRY JOHNSON
HISTORIAN	J. C. SHELLHAMMER
SGT AT ARMS	JEFF NEW
CHAPLAIN	HOWARD HORNIK
JUDGE ADVOCATE	WALLY LONSINGER
SERVICE OFFICER	
EXEC COMMITTEEMAN	NEAL THOMAS

DUES \$25.00

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

WORLD WAR I

APR 6, 1917 - NOV 11, 1918

WORLD WAR II

DEC 7, 1941 - DEC 31, 1946

KOREAN WAR

JUN 25, 1950 - JAN 31, 1946

VIETNAM WAR

DEC 22, 1961 - MAY 7, 1975

GRENADA & LEBANON

AUG 24, 1982 - JUL 31 1984

PANAMA

DEC 20, 1989 - JAN 31, 1990

PERSIAN GULF

AUG 2, 1990 UNTIL THE

END OF HOSTILITIES

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	BARBARA JOHNSON
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	
SECRETARY/TREASURER	DOT DASSERO
HISTORIAN	
CHAPLAIN	MARCIA SHELLHAMMER
SGT AT ARMS	RUTH HORNIK

DUES \$12.00

use a Post Home offers are: a place to hold our monthly meetings, room for the Auxiliary to meet, for Boy and Girl Scouts, the Oratorical Contest, wedding receptions, retirement parties, a private place to relax and have a drink, plus a picnic area and athletic area. These are just a few of the activities which a Post Home will accommodate. My question to you is "IS THIS A FACILITY THAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WOULD USE?" Let me know how you feel about this important question. My phone number is 596-9261, E-Mail is HarryJ@kktv.com or attend the Installation Dinner on May 18th at 430 E. Pikes Peak Avenue.

Membership at present is 321. This is an improvement over last year, but our goal is 451. We can make our goal if we all will ask one person to come along to the next meeting or simply hand them an application and ask them to join the largest veteran's organization in the world.

We need a Sgt-at-Arms and a Historian for the coming year. If you are interested in either job, please contact me as soon as possible.

This is a very important election for Veterans this year. Please register and vote for those candidates who have

MEETINGS

2RD THURSDAY - 7:00 P.M.

DAV POST #26 PALMER PARK & PETERSON RD.

EDITOR

DOROTHY DASSERO, NALPA

OFFICE

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COLORADO SPGS CO 80918-2944

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. BOX 23974 - 80986-3974

expressed a desire to help Vets and maintain Veterans' benefits. You don't know when you will need to use them.

If you haven't returned your Sweepstakes tickets as yet, please mail them back today. If you would like to go to Branson with us and don't want to take a chance on the Sweepstakes, we have a few spaces left on the tour. The total fare is \$480.00 per person. It's four days and three nights, six shows, three dinners and breakfasts and roundtrip air (bus transportation)). Call Harry 596-9261.

ADJUTANT ANNOTATIONS - ANN FOSTER

As I write this it is Wednesday evening, 24 April, and I want to let you know what happened to me when I attempted to make an appointment at the Academy Hospital today. I found I was no longer in the "system" and the records unit did not initially seem to know what had happened to my two volumes of medical records. After a SSgt from the Records unit and I talked, he was able to determine that my records were in a staging area getting ready to be shipped to the National Personnel Records Center (NRPC) in St. Louis. He said he would go to the staging area and bring them back to the hospital. Then he proceeded to help me get back into the "system." Eventually the Retiree Clinic that I thought I had been enrolled in all along was able to arrange for me to be seen in the afternoon.

Why were my records being shipped out? I am usually healthy for quite a spell and do not need to be seen every year. Thus, they decided I must not be around anymore. Since they had to go through about 80,000 records, they don't have the money to send you a card telling you what they want to do. The real point is that if you have medical records at any of the military

facilities, Academy, Peterson Clinic or Evens, and you have not been seen in the past year, you may want to check out the status of your records. If your records are at the Academy, telephone 472-5148 or 5149 or write 10th Medical Group/SGSTO, 4102 Pinon Drive, Ste 100, USAFA, CO 80840-4000 to request that your records not be retired. Ask that your records be pulled, hang onto the phone as it took twenty minutes for mine to be found. Whichever base has your records, send a memorandum to that medical unit, asking that your records be held and not retired. I may enter this idea into the Air Force Suggestion Program and will suggest it to others who may be facing such a problem. The lesson learned here is that we can no longer make assumptions concerning our records or status at a military treatment facility. It will be our own responsibility to check this on a regular basis. I plan on doing it every six months or so. I hope my experience may be of some value to any of you who may think you have medical records at one of the military treatment facilities.



AUXILIARY NEWS

At our regular meeting on April 18th, the Nominating Committee recommended the same slate of officers from 95-96 to be retained for the 96-97 year. There being no objection from the members attending the meeting, the slate of officers was accepted.

I had hoped we would have been able to offer you new officers but because there was no interest from the members of our Auxiliary, we should be grateful to these ladies who will once again do their jobs to the best of their abilities.

their jobs to the best of their abilities.

We were proud to have Department Children and Youth Chairman, Betty Andrews, visit our meeting. As always, she was a joy to have with us. Sorry Chris Alexandar, Vi Herath's guest from the Griffith Center, was unable to attend. We hope to have him, at a later meeting.

We will not have a General Membership meeting in May as we will be having Installation of Officers on May 18. There will be a dinner before installation. You are invited to attend. The dinner sounds really good: steak, baked potato, vegetable, tossed salad and pudding. The cost will be \$10.00 per person. The dinner and installation will be at VFW Post 4051, 430 East Pikes Peak, 6:00-6:30 cocktails, dinner at 6:30.

I am looking forward to the birthday party at the Florence Nursing Home which will be over when this newsletter reaches you. These Veterans are always so glad to see us, it warms my heart.

Department Convention is June 27-30 in Grand Junction. We will not have a meeting until July 18. I hope we can start our New Year out with great attendance at our meetings. May 1 is Executive meeting. No other meetings in May or June. Executive meeting on July 3 and regular meeting July 18.

BARBARA JOHNSON, PRESIDENT

POPPY CHAIRMAN - VI HERATH

We will be distributing poppies out at the Chapel Hills Walmart store the week of May 20-25. This is always fun but we could use more help. Call Vi, 598-5207, if you could volunteer a morning or afternoon to help. Half of the donations collected benefit our

Children and Youth program, the other half of the funds go to VA&R.

ACTIVITIES AND OTHER SIMILAR STUFF



May 18 - Installation Dinner at VFW Post #4051 on E. Pikes Peak Avenue. Steak plus.....Cost is \$10.00. Dinner is at 6:30, Happy Hour at 6:00.

The Legion will hold an Initiation of new members following dinner and Installation. If you have not been initiated into membership, please come...an impressive ceremony. Make your reservation with Harry or Barbara Johnson before May 13.

There will be no general meetings in May, however Executive Committees will meet on May 1. The June meetings are cancelled because of Department Convention being held in Grand Junction June 27-30.

The Legion will hold an officers' orientation session at Post #1 in Denver on May 24th and 25th. Post 209 will pay the \$5.00 registration fee for anyone who attends from the Post. Call Harry Johnson for any other information you need.

Regular meetings will reconvene in July; Executive Committees on July 3 and regular meetings on July 18. The potluck dinner will be at 6:00 P.M. with meetings at 7:00 P.M.

Don't Forget





FINANCE OFFICER
- LARRY JOHNSON

THE POST ACCOUNT BALANCES ARE REFLECTED
BELOW:

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts	
BINGO ACCOUNT-BINGO ACCOUNT	50,236.90
BUILDING FUND-BUILDING FUND	39,878.02
CLUB ACCOUNT-CLUB ACCOUNT	31.65
DAILY CASH FUND-DAILY CASH FUND BINGO	412.31
FUND RAISING-FUND RAISING ACCOUNT	505.52
GENERAL FUND-GENERAL ACCOUNT	7,585.18
POST SAVINGS-SAVINGS ACCT POST	1,092.20
POSTAGE DUE-POSTAGE DUE ACCT	0.00
<hr/>	
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	99,741.78
Other Assets	
CD # 1 POST-CD # 1 POST ACCOUNT	1,121.15
CD # 2 POST-CD # 2 POST	1,812.47
CD # 3 BLDGFUND-CD # 3 BLDG FUND	4,988.84
CD # 3 POST	1,009.54
LAND-LAND	75,000.00
T BILLS-T BILLS	9,333.70
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Total Other Assets	93,265.70
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TOTAL ASSETS	193,007.48
LIABILITIES	
	0.00
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TOTAL NET WORTH	193,007.48
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This is the last month that I will be publishing the post's account balances. When I started putting balances in the Newsletter, I had hoped that the concerned members of this Post, as well as others, would show some interest in what is and has been or will happen,

but I was wrong. People were telling me that I was wasting paper, time and money in trying to keep the members of this Post informed. As an officer and member, I felt that everyone had a right to know what was happening. But the attendance at the General membership meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month has not increased, nor has there been any inquiries about anything.

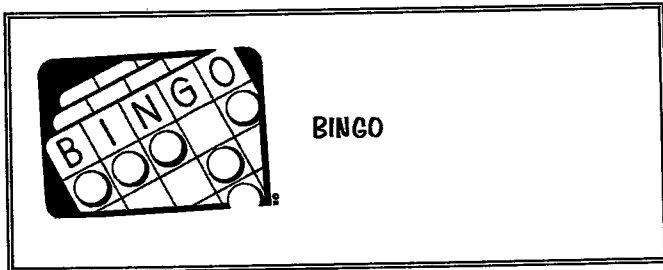
This Post has gone through a lot in its 20 years of being. About ten years ago we voted to try to make a Post Home out of what was then called "The Bronco Restaurant" and that didn't work. About six years ago we went into a space at the Rustic Hills mall. Our membership increased. We had a few good times and did new things and our money declined. We closed the Post and did not renew our lease because of the money flow (all outgoing, none coming in). Our membership declined and so did our participation, but our money improved. We bought 7 acres of land in the hopes of putting a building on the lot for use by our members and their families and guests. A place where families could get together, make new friends and get involved with the different programs of The American Legion and the community.

Right now our membership has stabilized and we are doing some programs of The American Legion and have gotten involved with the local community, but our participation has not grown.

We are sort of unique, when other organizations meet they have the same problem, no one at meetings, but give something free and everyone shows up. We give something away free and no one shows (except for a few).

I would like to thank the 16 other members of the Post who attended the meeting in April, who had confidence in me, as they re-elected me to the position of Finance Officer. This is even after I told everyone that with the advent of the Post Home being built

and the expertise that I have would have been reached and that they would have to hire a person or elect a person who has more capabilities than I do.



Well here I go again. Every month, for those who read this column, I plead and ask volunteers to work the game of Bingo.

I have to say WELCOME to Jeff McMullen who came out and said he would be able to give a couple of hours a night a couple of times a month, depending on circumstances. Jeff is going to learn how to call Bingo.

ANNUAL MEETING

In accordance with our Constitution and By-Laws, the Post's Annual Meeting is to be conducted in May. On 18 May at the Installation of Officers, the Annual Financial Report will be presented. If you would like to see and hear how we have been doing, make reservations to attend.

BELOW IS A SAMPLE LETTER ON HOW VETERANS CAN SPEAK OUT! IT IS BETTER IF YOU DO IT IN YOUR OWN HANDWRITING OR TYPING!

Dear Elected Representative:

I am an angry American military veteran. I was selected by you to defend our country. You were selected by me to honor the inherent contract that comes with the possession of a DD Form 214.

Military retirees cannot receive adequate health care.

Military retirements are being administratively reduced.

The Department of Veterans Affairs budget is being attacked from all directions and needed services are in short supply or non-existent. Veterans eligibility for health care from VA is being reduced or eliminated. Disability compensation applications are taking nine or more months to process, because you keep cutting VA staff while the number of new veterans increases.

Veterans preference in the federal Civil Service and the Post Office is being circumvented. Department of Labor Veterans Employment Specialists are being reduced while demand for services increases.

Desecration of our flag seems not to bother some of you, but to those of us who presented it to loved ones of our fallen comrades - - - it bothers us!

There are 27 million of us who possess a DD Form 214. You will not mainstream us, nor will you make us disappear despite your efforts. We were and still are, America's first special interest group. We are different, because we served our country, right or wrong. Some of us came home in pieces, some came home in caskets, and some never came home! But, watch for us in November, we'll be there. We are America's veterans, your veterans.

NAME _____

I served in the _____ from _____ to _____.

ADDRESS: _____

Obviously, you would fill in the appropriate information where the blanks are. You can fax, E-Mail, or regular mail copies of this letter to any and all elected representatives during the week preceding Memorial Day. You may also change the letter to suit your situation and your elected representatives, i.e., those representatives who have assisted veterans could be encouraged to persuade others to assist us.

Register to VOTE! VOTE for those who support veterans! Pass copies of this letter to every veteran you know. Join the (May 96) Fax attack on Washington DC!