

The Centennial



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May 2015

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Gregory Smith

As I continue to talk with veterans and members, I am fascinated by how we work as a Legion Family. We are able to speak of the needs of veterans and develop creative ways to make their needs our Post priority.

Over the year, I have continued to lead a team who has had to make some hard decisions, but in the end, it has become the best for the Post and its members. We are working with community leaders to help share our mission and to aid others in helping veterans and their families. I want to praise our leadership for helping the Centennial Post be more resilient and foster plans to become more financially stable for the future of our members.

**Good Teams
become
great ones**

**when the members trust each other enough
to surrender the “me” for the “we”**

Phil Jackson

In the coming months, we will be more visible in the community, more influential in the American Legion, Department of Colorado, and become greater supporters of the Colorado Springs veterans. On May 9th, 2015, we will have the installation of officers and the State of the Post address. The morning breakfast and membership meeting will be moved to an evening banquet. The installation of officers will be at 5:00 pm on May 9th, 2015 and we will share a Chicken Fried Steak dinner at 6:00 pm. The cost for the banquet will be \$10.50. Please RSVP immediately so as to reserve your place in this informative and proud event.

Later on in the month, there will be many opportunities to pay respects to those that have given the ultimate sacrifice... their lives. Please start exploring these opportunities and get involved this month. It is our duty to get involved and demonstrate to the community the 4 Pillars of the American Legion.

Throughout this year, we were tasked to increase membership and our abilities within the Centennial Post 209.



We did that by achieving the 966 members, which was given as a goal from the Department of Colorado, American Legion. As the Commander, I wanted us to do more and take on a greater challenge: It was to reach 1000 members. We are currently at 983 and I know we can reach this goal that I offered to the current leadership and executive committee. Please talk to all of the veterans you know and let them know how we can help them: 1) professional help in obtaining medical and insurance benefits; 2) assistance in VA claims; 3) professional representation in Congress; 4) job placement services; 5) discounts on hotels, motels, car rentals, and more; 6) insurance plans; 7) prescription drug plans; and 8) more.

We are the host post for the upcoming Department of Colorado, American Legion Convention. It will be at the Elegante Hotel, June 25-28, 2015. In the coming days, the committee lists will be sent out again, so you know what help you will be providing and also to see where we may still need help. As the years continue, we will always need financial support for our members. This is one of the greatest ways to bring resources into the Centennial Post. Other ways are our Friday night dinners, donations from national and local groups, and personal donations from our members. We are able to accept cash, checks, and donations through PayPal. The latter is the most convenient and a way to donate monthly without having to remember cash or a checkbook.

The time has come to turn back to “GOD” and reassert our trust in Him for the healing of America.”

Ronald Reagan

With school fast approaching summer vacation, please get our youth involved. On June 14th, 2015, (Flag Day) and July 4th, 2015 (Independence Day), the Centennial Post 209 will be paying our respect to those flags that have served our nation well and become a symbol for our nation. With these events, I am hoping to “Teach Our Children, God, Flag, Honor, and Country.” As the days approach, we will publish more details. Let your families, co-workers, companies, and others know of these events and share a true tribute to the “American Flag.”



The Young Guns held graduation and awards night on April 15th 2015. The evening started with remarks by our Post Commander Greg Smith and everyone enjoyed pizza, salad and soft drinks. Twelve junior shooters received their completion certificates for the nine week course. All shooters did a great job!

A competition was held in week eight to determine the top shot in the class and awards were given to the top four competitors. 1st place went to Edward, 2nd place Alex, 3rd place Justin, and 4th place Daniella. Four awards are given, since this comprises a Junior Shooting team.

Awards were then given to seven junior shooters that helped at the FNRA banquet on March 26th. A movie pass and certificate of appreciation was given to Kacey, Thomas, Quinn, Molly, Amelia, Evan and Justin. All are graduates of our Junior Shooting classes. They worked hard at the banquet and made us all proud!

Last but certainly not least, Patriot Awards were given to supporters of our junior shooting program. Bronze Awards went to Clyde Womer and Greg and Kari Ann Smith, A Silver Award went to Smith Haus V, A Gold Award went to Sportsmans Warehouse and Platinum Awards went to RJ Promotions and Friends of NRA. These Donors also have their names engraved on the Award Plaque that is permanently displayed at the Post.

A special thanks goes out to Peggy Gray and Michael Wescott with Friends of the NRA for the generous Grant of \$4286 to our junior shooting program. The money will be used to upgrade our equipment and provide an even greater experience for our junior shooters.

The Young Guns will now be working on NRA Marksmanship qualifications. Several shooters have signed up to earn their rockers for Pro Marksman, Marksman, Marksman 1st Class, Sharpshooter and Expert. The next class will be held on September 9th, 2015. If you would like information on junior shooting classes please contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email at adjutantsal209@gmail.com.





Centennial Squadron 209 SAL Commander

Rick Kettering



I had the honor of presenting the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 209 Child Welfare Foundation fundraising check at the Detachment meeting and CWF Awards Dinner at Post 178 in Lakewood, Colorado on 11 April, 2015. Squadron 209 met our goal of raising \$1,200 for CWF, and the Detachment of Colorado, overall, raised \$11,405. I cannot thank all the members of Post 209 enough for their generosity. There was a silent auction along with the festivities. There was a live band and dancing after the presentations and dinner.

Established in 1954, the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation was developed as a repository of funds from individuals who wished to contribute to the betterment of children in this country. The CWF's foremost philanthropic priority is to provide other nonprofit organizations with the means to educate the public about the special needs of children across the nation.

We will be gearing up for the new year starting soon so please save your change for our piggy's.

CHAPLAIN NEWS

May 2015

As May approaches, it reminds me of when I was in Hawaii. May first is always Lei Day and everyone wore a Lei. It is also one of our great days when we honor and pay respect to our MOTHER'S. Mother's day is May 10th and everyone should honor their mothers. I know that many have had their mothers go home to GOD, but you can still think of her and love her.

May 3rd, is also an important day for our district, it is our annual meeting and it is held this year at Post 38. Everyone that can should attend this very important meeting, we will be voting on new officers for the coming New Year.

Before closing, I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to be your Chaplain again for another year. With GOD as my guide, I feel that HE will lead me on the right path.

And in closing I have three words for all of you: **GO TO CHURH!!! AMEN!!!**

Pastor Stan

FROM THE ADJUTANT:

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

It's that time of the year again when the Post has to fill out and submit the annual Consolidated Post Report to National. Please list all the hours, mileage and money you have volunteered for the past year. If you are not sure where it may fall still let me know and I will report your hours in the proper area. We are required to report this information yearly to maintain our charter. The information is used by national when they report to Congress each year what we The American Legion have done to help out our Veterans, Children & Youth and Community the past year.

The District 7 Convention will be held this year at Post 38 on Sunday May 3rd starting at 11am. Department Officers will be there giving 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.

We are getting close to making our membership goal of 966 members for the post. One way that we can work on making this goal is to recruit new members. Department has a contest going that will award a member \$1,500 at Department Convention in June. With each new member that you recruit you and the person that you recruit are entered into the drawing; so if you recruit 10 new members you have 10 chances at winning the money.

Chairman of the VA Cemetery Committee

Vic Fernandez

VETERAN BURIALS

I recently had a conversation with a local Air Force veteran, during which he informed me that he thought that the Pikes Peak National Cemetery we were trying to establish here was only for veterans of the other military services. I asked him where he and his spouse were planning to be interred, and he responded “at the Air Force Academy.” I asked him if he was a graduate of the Air Force Academy, or had ever served there as a faculty or staff member. He was a bit perturbed, and said “No, but I am an Air Force Veteran, and that is all that is required.” Needless to say he became even more perturbed when I informed him that unless he received a special exception, he could not be buried there. He stormed off.

I tell this story as a precaution to the readers of this article to research the rules and regulations of the individual military service cemeteries prior to making plans for your final resting place.

The Army owns several cemeteries including the West Point Cemetery and Arlington Cemetery. The West Point Cemetery rules are very much like the Air Force Academy rules. Arlington Cemetery was the property of General Robert E. Lee prior to the Civil War, and was taken by the Union at the end of the war for use as a burial site for Union soldiers who lost their lives against the Confederacy. Arlington Cemetery is now the burial ground for veterans from every war since the 1860's, and for many distinguished Americans since then. Arlington burial sites are no longer able to handle all the Veterans that would like to be interred there, so additional acreage is being added to expand Arlington, and the rules about who can be buried there in the future, have been re-written and are more restrictive.

The Navy has a cemetery at Annapolis, with rules that parallel the rules at the other service academies. They also have primary responsibility for Pearl Harbor burials and burials at sea.

The Veterans Administration has responsibility for most of the National Cemeteries, and their cemeteries are available to all veterans who have been Honorably Discharged from their military service, as well as service members who die during their honorable service to the nation.

To learn more about your veterans and spousal burial or inurnment rights, I recommend you check with the Retirement Service Officer (RSO) or Veterans Service Officer (VSO) at your nearest Army or Air Force installation, or Veterans Administration Facility. Or you may go online to va.gov or to http://adm.elpasoco.com/veteran_services/

ITS ALL FOR THE VETERANS!

American Legion Post 209 Judge Advocate

Chuck Zeitvogel

A Bit of Post 209 History

Post 209 at one time had a Post Home in the old Rustic Hills Shopping area, it closed for a variety of reasons, and then maintained an office at 4291 Austin Bluffs Pkwy a few blocks west of Academy Blvd. Monthly general membership meetings were held at VFW Post 4051, 430 East Pikes Peak Ave for several years on the 3rd Thursday of the month before moving to the Retired Enlisted Association when they were held on the 3rd Saturday of the month with breakfast as an option before meetings.

Membership attendance picked up when breakfast was included. Post 209 owned a lot of approximately 7.8 acres size that was later sold to provide operating capital allowing purchase of our current Post home. Naturally there are many details not included here but with this brief history current members have a glimpse of a bit of past Post 209 history. Should you be interested in more details corner a member from those past years and they might be willing to bend your ear regarding those thrilling times of past years.

Post 209 has survived some interesting times and currently thrives with dedicated leaders and members.

Centennial Post 209 Historian

Eric Testorff

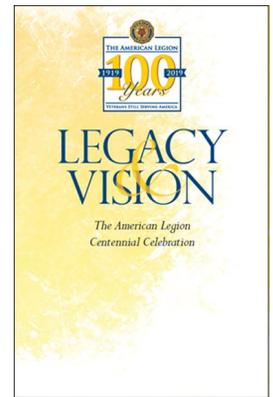
The 100th American Legion National Convention in 2018 kicks off a 15-month commemoration to honor the organization's first century of service and propel it into the second.

Minneapolis, home of the 1st American Legion National Convention in 1919, will serve as host city of the 100th National Convention Aug. 24-30, 2018. Centennial events and activities will be conducted at the national, department and post levels through the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis Aug. 23-29, 2019, and will culminate on Veterans Day, 2019.

On the local level, this 15-month celebration offers posts the opportunity to celebrate their legacy, enhance The American Legion brand, and foster a new era of growth and resonance within their communities. To this end, the American Legion has created the Legacy and Vision Project: An opportunity for every post in the American Legion to tell and record their history, and to create a vision and framework for their future post activities.

As the newly-elected Historian for Centennial Post 209, and a relatively-new member myself, I will need the advice and assistance of longer-term members to help accomplish the task of creating the Centennial Post 209 History. Once completed, this will be a valuable story that we will add to the great legacy of the American Legion.

If you believe you have information regarding our Post 209 founding, notable members, alumni from youth programs, significant events/projects/milestones, or what makes Post 209 special or unique, please contact me, Eric Testorff, at: etestorff@legion209.org or catch me at upcoming meetings or events.



Motorcycle Minute

ALR President Post 209 Andrew Gilbert

May is here. April was an incredible month. Spring cleaning and ALR German night were great. The flash crew came out of nowhere and really did a great job sprucing up our American Legion Post. Deteriorated wood was replaced and a lot of painting took place. Landscaping renewal, tree cutting and trimming were performed which made the place look great. By the end of the day the post looked so much better. Although the work is not complete, the place looks much better than it did a week earlier. It was teamwork that made this entire project possible. Thank you to all who participated.

When the crew finished for the day, American Legion Riders German dinner night at the post was incredible. The flash crew that worked on the post were invited to enjoy dinner night. There was a wonderful turnout for this great event.

Chris Kinnard presented a check towards the Run for the Wall ride. Her gold star wives blessed us with these funds which will fill a lot of motorcycles. Many vets cannot afford to go to Washington DC. There are many veterans who would not otherwise be able to make it to the wall. For some it is closure, some people go to look up family members and buddies. There are hundreds of reasons to go. If not for the assistance of people and organizations, like gold star wives. It would not happen.

As many of you know, SFC Thomas Avey was taken home to Colorado Springs. He passed away in Fort Walton Beach. His entire family expressed thanks for all the different motorcycle support they received from us and our other motorcycle friends in town. Thank you for everyone who participated in his final ride home.

As I had missed out on Hawaiian American Legion Dinner night March 13th. I was in town when Lino had invited me to his family Hawaiian night. It was terrific. His family made us feel totally at home. This was a truly fun night. When family get together, they are really wonderful. Each generation was dancing and told their story while performing. Little did I know, Mike and Cathy Barger pointed me out as someone who needed to dance Hawaiian style. I decided to actually show them just how good I was. It turns out I can't dance well. Needless to say, they won't invite me back again.

With all that's going on, We should learn to enjoy every moment. Bringing on new people allows us to enjoy our experiences with other people. Bring on new people that you would love at you home. We'd like them at our house too.

Bringing a Little South to the West

Immediate Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

Every May brings back memories of my High School days. The last month of the school year. It was SO hard to maintain any semblance of concentration on such insignificant things like “Finals.” There was planning for summer vacation. I couldn’t be bothered by something as silly as exams. I never had a desire or inclination to go to college, so making certain that final grade in English is an “A” was never on my mind. I knew I could still get my diploma with a “D.” My mind was filled with going to the lake, hanging out with friends, going to the Drive-In (I didn’t really care what was showing), and when necessary, working.

I tell people I went to the same school for 12, almost 13 years. Most of them look at me a little funny when I say that so I wind up having to explain. The 10th grade was not my shining moment. As I was planning for my first summer vacation with a driver’s license, I was hit with the realization I was failing the year. I didn’t have enough credits to advance to the 11th grade. It wasn’t because I was stupid, I just didn’t care about school or grades...until too late. I was lazy and easily distracted. After all, I had my driver’s license. The world was my playground. I had a ’64 Buick Special, 4-speed, convertible, 218 cubic inches of raw power (with cut-off pipes that when opened fully sounded like a Class-C stock car) under the hood. By the time I realized my summer would be spent in school, it was too late to stop it. So me and my Buick drove to summer school while all my friends lived it up at Sardis lake down in Mississippi. Man, I hated the 10th grade. In retrospect, that was probably the best thing that could have happened. Having to retake Sophomore English and Geometry helped me understand that if you do what you have to do when you have to do it, you’ll then get to do what you want to do when you want to do it. By the way, no real person uses Geometry. What a waste of math theory. I’ve discovered the only mathematical program that’s more useless than Geometry is Calculus. I’ve lived more than 60 years never having to use Calculus for anything other than as a requirement for a Bachelor’s degree. I think it was invented just to make certain that degree weeded out the weak.

But I digress. May was always an exciting and stressful month for many. As a senior and in my third year of JROTC, I convinced our Senior Military Instructor, a retired US Army 1st Sergeant that we needed a Provost Marshall. So he appointed me to head up a new MP section. I chose some of the biggest guys in JROTC for MPs. They were mostly football players; Linebackers, Guards, and Tackles. Our job during the end of year final inspection was to go around and find those who “skipped out” of the inspection and make them go to formation. I remember finding one classmate hiding under a workbench in shop. He was the S-1 and not prepared for the report he had to give during inspection. And just to be thorough, we left the school and went to the nearby stores and Malt Shops looking for deserters. By the time we finished our rounds (and Malts), the inspection was over. Tough job.

May was always one of my favorite months. It was early spring, school was over for the year, prom, graduation, and when I wasn’t going to Summer School, freedom for about 3 months. It was also a time when, after graduating I realized I had to grow up or at least try. Some of my friends received a letter from their Uncle (Sam) offering “Greetings...” where they would be outfitted in new clothes and an opportunity to go to far-away places in the Middle East, Far East and Europe. I didn’t get the letter because I enlisted prior to graduation, but that’s another story for another day. So, who wants to discuss derivatives?



Post Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Stan Hamamoto	719-322-6959
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Rob Johnson	719-421-9201
Post Executive Committeeman	Jay Bowen	901-484-7193
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610



Auxiliary Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-3193
Vice President	Theresa Wiederspahn	719-360-1064
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Chaplain	Joan Ciani	719-579-9194
Sergeant-At-Arms	Becky Hall	719-231-0597
Historian	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763



Sons of The American Legion 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
1st Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Chaplain	Christopher Keith	719-382-7845
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Secretary	John Duenas	719-291-9733
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Mike Barger	719-290-3218



Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events



4 June	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
5 June	Hamdogger
12 June	ALR Dinner (Ribs and Chicken) 6:00 pm, RSVP REQUIRED
13 June	Gen. membership Breakfast 9:00am Legion/Auxiliary Mtg 10
14 June	FLAG DAY!!! Flag Retirement Ceremony
19 June	Steak Night! 6:00 pm, RSVP REQUIRED
23 June	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social hour) (6:30 meeting) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)
25-28 June	Department Convention Elegante Hotel
25 June	Department Convention Golf Tournament
26 June	Fish Fry Night 6:00 pm
27 June	ALR Legacy Run (Centennial Post 209) (10:30 to 3:00)
27 June	Centennial Post 209 Dinner
2 July	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
3 July	Hamdogger Night
4 July	July 4 th Picnic Potluck Dinner, Flag Retirement Ceremony
10 July	ALR "The American Meal" Dinner 6:00 pm, RSVP REQUIRED
11 July	General membership Breakfast 9:00am Legion/Auxiliary 10
17 July	Steak Night! 6:00 pm, RSVP REQUIRED
24 July	Fish Fry 6:00 pm, RSVP REQUIRED
25 July	McCandless BBQ Florence CO
28 July	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social hour) (6:30 meeting) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)
6 Aug	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
8 Aug	General membership Breakfast 9:00am Legion/Auxiliary 10 am ALR Scavenger Hunt (ALR's fundraiser)
14-16 Aug	Cripple Creek POW/MIA run
14-16 Aug	American Legion Table at Cripple Creek
14 Aug	ALR Dinner 6:00 pm
17 Aug	ALR Board Meeting 6:00 pm
21 Aug	Steak Night! 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
25 Aug	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social hour) (6:30 meeting) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)
28 Aug	Fish Fry 6:00 pm RSVP required
29 Aug	Inaugural ALR Post 209 Poker Run



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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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COLORADO SPGS, CO
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

~ May 2015 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Department June 25-28, 201 Elegante Hotel 				1 Hamdogger 6 pm CANCELLED	2
3 District 7 11:00 am to 3:00 pm Post 38 Fountain/Security Support the District "Bring your Voices"	4	5	6 Young Guns 1830 hrs 	7 Executive Meeting 1830 hrs. 	8 ALR Dinner 6 pm "RSVP required" BBQ 	9 State of the Post Installation of Officers 5:00 pm 'Banquet 6:00 
10	11	12	13 Young Guns 1830 hrs 	14	15 Steak Night 6 pm RSVP Required 	16 "Run for the Wall" Coming through Foundation CO and HWY 24
17	18 ALR Executive 1800 hrs	19	20 Young Guns 1830 hrs 	21	22 Fish Fry Night 6pm RSVP Required	23
24	25	26 ALR Monthly Meeting 1830 hrs. Social 1730 SAL Squadron 209 1800 	27 Young Guns 1830 hrs 	28	29	30

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or Kariann Smith (520-784-3193 kariannsmith@me.com