

# The Centennial



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## From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Mike Barger



**May.** As always, I'd like to start off by acknowledging all those that have stepped up this last month and volunteered their time to the Post. That includes people from the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders. A big thank you from myself and the executive board goes out to you all.

Well, another election year has come and gone, and I'd like to congratulate all those that were selected to fill the positions that were becoming vacant. Eric Testorff is our new Senior Vice Commander, Jerry Lollar is the Junior Vice Commander, Chris Earley has accepted the Historian position and Bill Burd is our Post Executive Committeeman.

Thanks to Bob Caddell, Lino Calica and Greg Smith for the hard work and dedication they bestowed on this Post while in their positions. It's my hope that you will help the incoming folks in your positions with anything they need to be successful. I'd also like to thank all those in attendance for voting me in for a second year. It's an honor to be in this position and I will continue to represent this Post to the best of my ability. A reminder, there will not be a May breakfast and General Membership meeting on 5/13 because we will be doing the installation of officers that evening. Installation of officers will begin at 5pm and dinner follows at 6 pm. Dinner will be Swiss Steak, so please make sure to RSVP if you're going to be attending this event.

Last month at the General Membership meeting, I brought up to those in attendance that we are so close to hitting our membership goal, and I asked if anyone would be interested in sponsoring a Veteran that is a member, but can't make the payment this year to keep their membership active with the Legion. We had close to 20 individuals step up and do this, and I'd like to thank those that stepped up and accepted this challenge. Those that we sponsored will be greatly appreciative of you all. I still challenge those that weren't at the meeting to sponsor one if they can. If you'd like to step up and do this, please contact Marvin or myself, and we can get this taken care of. We still have under 200 members that show they haven't renewed for 2017.

On May 2nd, 2011, Special Operations soldiers killed Osama Bin Laden during a raid on his secret compound in Pakistan. The raid marked a culmination of a decade long manhunt for the most wanted terrorist that was responsible for masterminding the operations on 9/11/01 that killed close to 3000 people. We've been at war now for 16 years fighting terrorists in numerous countries, so we don't have to fight them on our soil.

If you were not able to attend the Department Commander's homecoming and/or the Department President's homecoming, you missed some great events. A fun time was had by all, and Jay and Evelyn appreciate your donations to their projects, the Crawford House.

Dates to remember in May: the 7th will be District Convention at Post 38 at 11 am. Elections will be held on this day. Lunch will be provided for a donation. The 14th, is Mother's Day, so don't forget to get your mother/wife something nice that day, and the 29th, which is Memorial Day. This day is the day we remember all those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice to fight for our freedoms that we have today and years to come. Did you know that Memorial Day originally began after the Civil war in 1868 and was called "Decoration Day" and was always on May 30<sup>th</sup>? It was changed to "Memorial Day" in 1882, but did not become the common name until after WWII. It was not officially changed to the last Monday of May until 1971.

*Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) [jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com)*



## From the Unit 209 President - May

Cathy Barger

**NO MAY MEETING!** We will hold a joint installation of officers starting at 5:00pm May 13. Following the installations we will have a Swiss steak dinner. Please make sure to RSVP for this dinner. Your new officers are: President Cathy Barger, Vice President Donna Rae Smith, Secretary Pat Weaver, Treasurer Kellie Hayes, Chaplain Jackie Burd, Assistant Chaplain Evelyn Espinola, Sgt-at-Arms Donna Testorff, Historians Donna Rae Smith and Nancy Lafayette and Executive-at-Large Jackie Bowen. They will take over in June after the Department Convention. Thank you ladies for stepping up and continuing to serve our Veterans.

Thanks goes out to all who helped make our Butter Braid fundraiser a success. Be looking for the announcement in the newsletter (November timeframe) for the next one.

The American Legion Family will launch National Poppy Day on Friday, May 26, as a way to honor U.S. service members, from the battlefields of France in World War I a century ago to today's Global War on Terrorism. Please make sure you have a Poppy for Memorial Day. We have them displayed on the shelf in the dining room at the Post.

Marilyn Stites gave us an update on the cakes we donate for the Wounded Warrior birthday parties. If you donate cakes to this wonderful project, please put the kind of cake (i.e. chocolate on chocolate), if special dietary facts (i.e. gluten-free), or if it has nuts of any kind.

We're looking for sponsors for our Girls State program. If you know of anyone that would like to sponsor a girl for Girls State or if you would like to be a sponsor, the full sponsorship is \$200 for one girl. If you can't do a full sponsorship any amount will help. Girls State will be held on June 11-17 at UNC Greeley.

Our cookbook is coming along. Kellie Hayes and her helpers are steadily retyping all she has received to get them ready for publication. Thank you Kellie and helpers.

Happy Birthday to Cathy Barger, Lori Barger, Laurel Harman, Kris Mueller, Jada Peacock, Joey Santiago and Tiffany Weaver. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly

**By the way, the ALR dinner for May 12<sup>th</sup> will be Hawaiian. Please come down and support the riders, and make sure to RSVP.**



## From the Adjutant - May

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

We are doing well with membership this year, but we still need about 30 more members (renewals and new) to reach our goal set forth by the District. I have been looking over the numbers compared to last year and we have not recruited as many new members as we have in the past. We need to recruit new members; that is what helps the Legion grow and carry on our legacy. If we had as many new members recruited as in the past we would already be at our membership goal. If you have a friend that is not a member yet talk with them and see about getting them signed up to become a member. Remember, Department still has the recruiting drive going that for every new member you recruit, you and the new member are entered into a drawing for \$100 to be drawn on the membership target dates.

District 7 Convention will be on May 7th at Post 38 starting at 11am. We will have officers from Department to give updates on what is going on within the Department. We will also be having election of District officers. Lunch will be provided for donation. Department Convention will be June 22 – 25 at Hotel Elegante here in Colorado Springs.



**Motorcycle Minute - May**  
Bob "Einstein" Caddell; President

Greeting and Salutations! ALR 209 performed Rifle Honor Guard services for WWII Veteran Sgt. James Hibbard who had no family representation for graveside services. This was a great combined Veteran's organization effort between the American Legion Riders, VFW, Patriot Guard and the Fort Carson Honor Guard, all of whom came together to ensure full honors were rendered. There were nearly 50 Veteran and Veteran support attendees and the event was covered by KKTV News.

We made our first fun run for the bike season to Bents Old Fort Saturday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. Great times and comradery with the Brothers and Sisters. We met up with the ALR unit from Post 9 in La Junta, enjoyed a great tour of the Fort, then had BBQ together back in La Junta afterwards. Jay's Homecoming had a few tired riders in attendance after a 260-mile round trip, but we certainly enjoyed supporting and welcoming him home!

We have LOTS planned for the upcoming summer schedule. From Poker runs to Cripple Creek, the annual McCandless BBQ, to supporting the Pikes Peak or Bust rodeo, we have a ton of fun in the works. Please come out and support the events if and when you can.

That's all for now, Einstein.



**American Legion Family Cookbook - May**



The Auxiliary is putting together an American Legion Family Cookbook. All proceeds will be going to support the Post. What do we need you ask?

Recipes! Recipes! Recipes! All categories including appetizers, beverages, main dishes, side dishes, salads, desserts, snacks, etc.

We would like recipes from all the family members, Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders. You can submit them to hayeskelliej@yahoo.com or bring them to any dinner or function at the Post and give them to Kellie Hayes. We will accept them photocopied, scanned and emailed, handwritten or any other way you can think of. Samples are always welcome, haha. Our goal is to have this completed and ready to sell by the end of the summer.



**From the Desk of - May**  
Bob Caddell; Jr. Vice Commander

My last news letter as Jr. Vice.

I want to first make apologies to David Hall and Steve Wolford. I mistakenly gave credit to David for our last company speaker when they were actually recommended by Steve. Sorry guys.

Jerry Lollar will be sworn in as Jr. and will make a great JV. Lets all show support for the new officers at the Installation ceremony. Eric Testorff as Senior Vice, welcome back Commander Barger, Sgt@Arms Krasinki, Chaplain Paul, Adjutant Marvin and who can forget Moneybags Rusty and Chris Earley for accepting the Historian position. Thanks guys for doing what you do.

I feel the need to make some grand farewell statement but I mostly did that in the last article. I'll just depart with a farewell to you all and a hello as the ALR 209 President. I may be gone from this leadership but I'm taking on a grand new adventure that will keep me in contact with all of you.



# 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.



**Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!**  
**From Jay Bowen**

**To All My Post 209 Family,**

Mere words do not express the appreciation and admiration I have for you. For those who recently attended my Homecoming, you know what fun Jackie and I had (sometimes at our expense). Thanks to all for a great welcome home celebration!

While the year I've spent representing you as the State Commander for the Department of Colorado is quickly coming to an end, I have very often longed for a time to re-join you as a member of the greatest Post in the State and probably the Nation.

You have supported me and Jackie in every endeavor we have undertaken this past year and you've shown your support to us by your attendance at my Homecoming. You have been understanding by our absence and I want you to know your support was needed and welcomed as we complete this Legion year as Commander.

I look forward to returning to Post 209 and participating in the many events and programs our Post continues to support. On behalf of Jackie and myself, I thank each and every one for your support and friendship.

I'm coming home soon!



**From Jerry Lollar**  
**Incoming Post Junior Vice Commander**

**To All My Legionnaire Family,**

It is with great humility and understanding of the vast responsibility that I willingly accept the position the membership has elected me to as the new Junior Vice Commander of our Post. I thank you for your trust and support as we begin another year. It is a true honor to serve our organization. I congratulate Commander Mike Barger and his other Post Officers on their very successful year. Together they lead the way for our Post to have a very outstanding year in all areas. I look forward to serving with all of you in this coming year as the Jr. Vice Commander.

As part of my job, I will provide the membership some I hope will be interesting programs of benefit and provide some form of enjoyment at the same time. I am asking each of you to contact me if you would like to offer any suggestions for guest speakers you would like to see at our meetings. These speakers will be short, concise, and I hope informative as well.

At the time of the elections, I stated I want to put on some form of training before, during or after our Post meetings or whenever we have the time. This training will not be long, or detailed unless it is requested by **you**, the members of our Post. I hope **you** will make an effort to attend these training events whenever they are planned. In planning this training, I ask for your support and make suggestions on what **you** would like to see, remember this is **your** training too.

Finally, I want you to know as a Post officer, if you have questions, concerns, or problems, please feel free to contact me and we can sit down over coffee and work it out together, the two of us. You may call me at (719) 264-1941 or email me at [eagleeye1946@hotmail.com](mailto:eagleeye1946@hotmail.com) and yes, I do have big ears too, so I can listen.

Thank you again for your support and your votes in electing me to the office of Post Jr. Vice Commander. May our God Bless you and your family and protect our Men and Women of the US military and their family always.



## Junior Shooting Sports Update - May Ken Taylor, Chairman



Awards Night for Young Guns Junior Shooting Sports was held on April 5th, at Post 209. Post Commander Mike Barger opened the proceedings with some remarks for the students, parents and instructors assembled.

Ken Taylor awarded each student a Certificate of Completion for the Junior Shooting program, as well as a Junior Shooting patch. Also, given out were Top Shot awards for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place shooters, as well as 1 Standing Bullseye award.



Martin Sobieraj (standing on the right) from Friends of the NRA was on hand to receive a plaque of appreciation for all the wonderful support the program has given Post 209 Junior Shooting. Over the past four years, our program has received 12,769.00 in Grants from the Friends of the NRA Foundation.

NRA Marksmanship competitors also received awards including Pro Marksman, Marksman and Marksman 1st Class--all the way up to Sharpshooter to the 4th level.

All in all it was a wonderful finish to a great semester of rifle safety, fundamentals and marksmanship. Oh, and there was pizza, too! Congratulations students, parents and instructors on a job well done!

We are moving our new shooters class from Wednesday evenings to Thursday evenings beginning with the Fall 2017 class. The class will start on Thursday September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. NRA Marksmanship will be held on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 8:30 beginning in the Fall 2017.



## From Squadron 209 - May Commander Ken Taylor

At our general membership meeting on 28 March, we continue a new tradition we recently started to honor a Veteran who made our SAL membership possible. Marvin Weaver Jr introduced his father Marvin Weaver Sr, a retired Air Force Veteran. At the February meeting, Steve Cox introduced his father DJ Cox who is also a retired Air Force Veteran. Gentlemen, we thank you for your service! By the way, I know our news appears to be a couple of months old, but it is because our monthly meeting is typically held after the deadline for submitting articles for the newsletter. Even though you will get this after we conduct our April meeting, the deadline for submission requires us to send articles before we meet.

Another highlight of the meeting was a visit by Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Colorado Commander Jim Gaddis, and Sr. Vice Cmdr. Ron Noakes. Welcome gentlemen, and thank you for coming!

Our March meeting focused on new Officer nominations, to be voted on April 25th. As of this writing, the new officer nominees so far are as follows:

- FOR COMMANDER: Ken Taylor
- FOR SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: Marvin Weaver, Jr.
- FOR JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER: Stan (Sgt. Ski) Krasinski
- FOR FINANCE OFFICER: Rusty Bower
- FOR ADJUTANT: Rick Kettering
- FOR CHAPLAIN: Shelten Krasinski
- FOR SGT-AT-ARMS: Steve Cox
- FOR HISTORIAN: Eric Testorff
- FOR SQUADRON ADVISOR: Don Shuck



\*\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*\*

OUR MONTHLY MEETING TIME HAS BEEN MOVED UP FROM 6:pm TO 5:45.



## Where the Boys Are!

No, I'm not getting ready to launch into an old Connie Frances song (for you Millennials, Google it).

Boys State is one of the oldest and greatest Americanism programs of The American Legion and will be held from 4-10 June. Our great organization has been molding young men since 1935 at Boys State and giving them an opportunity to learn how the Government is really supposed to work.

It is once again being offered to young men who have completed their Junior year of High School. We don't care if they come from a public, private, or home school, if they have successfully completed the 11th grade and have at least one more semester remaining, they are invited to join boys from across the State and create the 51st State.

For several years, Post 209 has led the Department in the number of boys we send. Bill Marshall has been our Post Boys State Chairman and continues to find and sign boys up to attend. He will typically sign up approximately 40 boys each year to participate in this interactive civics program.

The boys will spend an entire week at CSU-Pueblo, living on campus in dorms. They will be assigned to a city and one of two political parties; the Nationalist or the Federalist. From that point it is up to them to identify their party platform and make their city, county, and state look the way they want it to look.

While there is absolutely no cost for the boy, each Post is asked to pay \$200 for each boy they sponsor. Unfortunately, our budget doesn't allow us to commit \$8,000 each year to send these bright young men to Boys State. Fortunately, we have some very generous members of the Post who typically step up and sponsor a young man, and the Post has been gracious enough to donate about \$1,500 each year. Thankfully, our Department has been successful finding corporate sponsorship to help with the difference.

If you are interested in being a part of supporting a program that will positively change the life of a young man forever, contact Marvin Weaver, Jr. and let him know you would like to help. To fully sponsor a young man, we need you to commit \$200 to this 501 (c) (3) program. You can also be a partial sponsor. Any donation is greatly appreciated and tax deductible up to the amount allowed by law.

There is a very similar program led by our Auxiliary for young ladies. See the article below for details. If you have questions, I encourage you to contact Jay Bowen at [legionnairejay@yahoo.com](mailto:legionnairejay@yahoo.com) or on his cell at 901-484-7193.



## Girls State is Fast Approaching - May

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program, first presented in the late 1930's, is one of the most respected experiential learning programs in the United States. Guided by the principle "For God and Country," the program epitomizes the ALA's mission to honor those who have brought us our freedom by continuing to train young women to be leaders grounded in Patriotism and Americanism. ALA Girls State participants become extremely knowledgeable about the democratic process and how our republic works at the state and national levels. The girls are taught government from the township to the state level. Using a nonpartisan curriculum, participants assume the roles of government leaders, campaigning as "Federalists" and "Nationalists" to become elected officials in their mock ALA Girls State. During the immersive-learning program, delegates live in "cities" within a dormitory on the University of Northern Colorado campus in Greeley. The knowledge, memories, and friendships they take home last a lifetime.

This year we have 25 delegates that we will be sending from June 11th to the 17th. On May 21st, from 3 to 5 we are having an Ice Cream Social to let the girls get to know the Post and each other. If you would like to help, please contact Kellie Hayes, 719-494-7167. To RSVP, go onto the website and RSVP under "special events." Also, if you would like to sponsor a delegate to Girls State, it is \$200 per girl.



## From the Historian - May

Eric Testorff

May is a month when we remember our fallen. We remember fellow Veterans who have passed on before us. We remember those who gave some, and some who gave all.

We Legionnaires belong to an organization that is the foremost authority on so many things regarding Veterans, Americanism, honor and remembrance. For example, in 1942 Congress adopted into law the code of U.S. flag etiquette, provisions of which the American Legion had established years before. It was a Legionnaire who wrote the G.I. Bill of Rights. Americans look to the Legion as a watchdog regarding Veterans' issues and Veteran care. Even the Department of Defense has turned to the American Legion and other Veterans Service Organizations for assistance in rendering Final Military Honors to departed Veterans.

The Legion is nearing its 100-year anniversary, and as part of our Centennial celebration we have once again taken the lead with an important project: The American Legion is now establishing a database to identify the locations, document the histories and share photographs of our nation's monuments and memorials to those who have served.

This will only be possible, however, through the help of thousands of Legionnaires, Legion Family members, and related organizations such as the Scouts, Gold Star families, and others. You as an individual, or your organization as a group project, can help document your local war and Veteran-related memorials, and upload the information to a central database. Key points for each submission include:

- Location of the memorial, mapped if possible
- Purpose of the memorial, such as who it honors and why, in just a sentence or two
- Date of the memorial's installation and who originally installed it, if known
- A brief assessment of its condition today
- A photo or photos, easily taken with a smart phone



To upload text or photos, go to [legion.org/memorials](http://legion.org/memorials), click on "Add a Memorial" and follow the instructions. Submissions will be displayed on the web site after review.

In its second century, the American Legion will continue to be a leader in Americanism, patriotism, honor and remembrance. This database is already becoming a great resource, and in itself stands to be a monument to the many servicemen and women who gave so much to our country. You can be a part of it. Help the American Legion celebrate 100 years of service to our Veterans, and document the service and sacrifice of our heroes.



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

### Origin of NAVY Terminology

Rusty Bower



#### Sun Over the Yardarm

This phrase is widely used, both afloat and ashore, to indicate that the time of day has been reached at which it is acceptable, variously, to have lunch or (more commonly) to have an alcoholic beverage. In modern parlance, the latter usage typically refers to early evening, but the phrase is thought originally to have referred to late morning and to the sun's ascent past a particular yard.

The actual time that the sun would pass a particular yard would depend greatly on the ship's latitude and heading, as well as the height of her masts, but the phrase seems to have originated in the north Atlantic, where, in summer, this would have typically been at about 11 a.m. This was the time at which, by custom and rule, the first rum, tot or grog of the day was issued to men (the senior rates had their tots neat, while the junior rates had theirs diluted with water), hence its connection with taking one's first drink of the day.

The earliest mention of this phrase is in Rudyard Kipling's, *From Sea to Sea* in 1899, where it is used as a metaphor referring to drinking habits.



# **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 2017.

**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!**



## **Bringing a Little South to the West - May**

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

I know you've heard and probably uttered the old declaration, "I'm running around like a chicken with its head cut off!" I just wonder how many of you have actually seen a chicken running after losing its head. I still have vivid memories of watching that strange phenomena.

If you're a follower of my little reminisces, you know I spent a lot of my childhood staying with grandparents on a farm in Arkansas. We would drive from Memphis on a Friday evening after Dad got off work and come back Sunday mid-afternoon. And many of my summers' were spent on the farm visiting and working for both sets of grandparents.

On more than one occasion, I witnessed my Granddad take one of the chickens they kept on the farm to the "altar" as a sacrifice for our dinner. He had an old tree stump beside the house that made a perfect chopping block. He would take his hatchet and the "pick of the day" to the stump. Holding the chicken high by the legs, he would flop it on the block and with one smooth swing chop the head off.

Immediately afterward he would kind of toss the chicken onto the ground. I don't know if he did this to scare us or maybe he thought we would enjoy what followed, or it may have been he just wanted an easy way for the blood to drain, but it was always the same. The headless chicken would hit the ground running and hopping in all directions. Out of the top of the neck was a bone that seemed to just sweep in circles while the chicken ran and hopped crazily about. This typically lasted for just a minute or so and then the chicken would drop dead. I couldn't have been more than 5 or 6 the first time I saw this, but the mental image has never left my mind. It especially comes back to visit me when I or someone else repeats that strange phrase.

I don't just think about that chicken during those periods when walking down memory lane, I also remember many other things about Granny and Grandad's farm. They "worked for the other fella," a term to mean they didn't own the property they farmed, they sharecropped. They paid the land owner a percentage of the cotton and soybeans they grew each year. Most years they made just enough money to buy more seed for next year.

The old farmhouse was a two bedroom shack with a tin roof. I used to love lying in bed during a rain storm and listen to the drops of rain pelt the tin roof. It was soothing and almost musical and put me to sleep within minutes of laying down. I remember one year Granddad decided to install fire detectors. He bought a couple packs of Black Cat Firecrackers and placed them strategically throughout the house. He would put them on top of a door frame between the rooms, or punch a small hole in the old wallpaper in the corners and put the firecrackers in the hole. The thought was that if the house caught fire it would set off the firecrackers and wake up anyone/everyone in the house. Thank God we never had to qualify the theory, but I heard that when they finally moved out of the house and some guys came by to tear it down they found the firecrackers and refused to finish the job. Apparently, they thought there was explosives planted in the house.

I also remember the time Grandad built a shower. There was no running water inside. They had a well beside the house and near the chicken killing stump. We would take a small bucket of water and pour it down the pump to prime it. After a few pumps, the water would begin to flow and we'd get enough for whatever Granny needed. Sometimes it was water for dinner, or for doing the dishes afterward and sometimes it was to heat on the stove for our bath in the #6 Washtub they kept on the back porch. Anyway, after several years Grandad decided to go high tech. He built what looked like a small outhouse. I said it only looked like an outhouse because he already had a 2-holer in the backyard. On top of the building he set up a 55 gallon drum and filled it half-full with water. At the base of the drum, he cut a hole and put a shower head on it. He made certain the building was away from trees and other building so the afternoon sun hit it without interference. If you took your shower in mid-afternoon, the water felt really good. If you took it too early or too late, you took a cold shower. In the winter it didn't much matter when you took the shower. Nevertheless, it was much better than the Washtub.

There are many other memories from my visits with them and our Mother's parents about 7 miles away. But that's another story for another edition. Right now, I have several errands to run and as usual I'm late getting them done. You know it is times like this I feel like I'm running around like a chicken with its head cut off.



## Post Officers 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Bob Caddell	719-393-5180
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Paul R. Darrow	719-237-4461
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasin-ski	719-556-8326
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Post Exec. Cmtee	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Larry Johnson	719-230-0232
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Jeremy Boltjes	218-831-0475



## ALR Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Bob Caddell	719-393-5180
Vice President	Steve Hayes	719-494-7166
Secretary	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Tim McDowell	719-510-9907
Road Captain	Grady Mitchell	719-201-3353



## Auxiliary Officers 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Vice President	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Jackie Burd	719-590-6615
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073



## Sons of The American Legion 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047
Sr. Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Adjutant	Steve Wolford	920-264-4238
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

## May 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	<b>5</b> Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>13</b> \$10.50 Installation & Banquet Installation - 5:00pm Dinner - 6pm 
<b>14</b> Mother's Day	<b>15</b> Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	<b>16</b> Pikes Peak Veterans' Honor Guard Meeting 6:00pm 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>20</b> Armed Forces Day
<b>21</b> Girls State Ice Cream Social 3:00pm-5pm 	<b>22</b> Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	<b>23</b> ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm 	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> \$10.50 Meal Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Memorial Day	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Notes:		

June 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	2 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	3
4	5 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	6	7	8	9 \$9.00 Meal Aux. Dinner RSVP Required! 6:00pm 	10 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
11	12 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	13	14 Flag Day  US Army Birthday! 242 Years!	15	16 Steak Night! CANCELLED!	17
18 Father's Day	19 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  	20	21 Summer Solstice	22	23 Chef Surprise! CANCELLED!	24
25 Dept. Convention	26	27 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	28	29	30	Notes:
Department Convention; Elegante Hotel, Colorado Springs						

July 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Canada Day
2	3 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	4 Independence Day Flag Disposal Ceremony Post Picnic!	5	6 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	7 Hamdogger CANCELLED!	8 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
9	10	11	12	13	14 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	15
16	17 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  	18	19	20	21 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	22
23	24	25 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	26	27	28 \$10.50 Meal Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	29
30 Intl. Friendship Day	31	Notes:				