



# The Centennial

Volume XIII

Edition 5

May 2022

**THE AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR.  
CENTENNIAL POST 209**

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Hear from your post officers on the latest news and information

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

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



### The American Legion Post 209 Officers 2021-2022

<b>Commander:</b>	Joseph Schmidt	(651) 328-9029
<b>Adjutant:</b>	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b>	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b>	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
<b>H.Guard/Finance Officer:</b>	Joel Haas	(719) 482-4496
<b>Service Officer:</b>	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
<b>Judge Advocate:</b>	Marvin Weaver	(719) 638-4763
<b>Historian:</b>	Vacant	
<b>Exec. Cmtman/Club Mgr:</b>	Art Kimbrel	(719) 339-4610
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
<b>Immediate Past CDR:</b>	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
<b>Sgt.-at-Arms:</b>	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775



### American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2021-2022

<b>President:</b>	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
<b>Vice President:</b>	Cathy Barger	(719) 290-3163
<b>Secretary:</b>	Pat Weaver	(719) 638-4763
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Mary Bramer	(719) 633-8612
<b>Exec.-at-Large:</b>	Jackie Bowen	(901) 481-0673
<b>Historian:</b>	Valerie Stephens	(330) 510-0411
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Charyse Schmidt	(651) 558-6968



### Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2021-2022

<b>Commander:</b>	Brian Wess	(719) 528-6672
<b>Adjutant &amp; Finance Officer:</b>	Ken Taylor	(719) 461-4047
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b>	Rob Barry	
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b>	Daxton Attarian	
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Bob Ingram	(480) 353-8234



### American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2022-2023

<b>President:</b>	Ed Santos	(719) 329-4357
<b>Vice President:</b>	Sarah Tobin	(719) 439-7724
<b>Secretary:</b>	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Scott Laudan	(719) 238-2679
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775
<b>Road Captain:</b>	Sean Cope	(719) 246-4820
<b>Historian:</b>	Vacant	
<b>Communications:</b>	Gary Asp	(719) 822-3270



### The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) Officers

<b>President:</b>	George Johnson	(910) 494-9768	KE0ALQ
<b>Vice President:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Trustee &amp; Secretary:</b>	Harvey LeCato		W1JU
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Henry Russell J		KC0NAJ



## From the desk & mind of the Commander

I am proud to announce that by the time this newsletter is published, we as a post will be at 100% membership! But why are we the largest post in the State of Colorado? This is a routine question from our many guests and visitors, and I have answered this question with various answers; membership engagement, working the programs, or just putting in the hard work. Truly, I believe growth comes from maintaining the ceremonies, traditions, and values of The American Legion. We as a post, understand that we are here to serve the Community, State, and Nation, not our self-interest.

Our successes are also based on changing the status quo. Time and time again, we have gone against the grain of what a “traditional” Veterans Service Organization (The American Legion, VFW, DAV, etc.) looks like. When you ask veterans unaffiliated with a VSO, what they think we are all about, you will receive many similar answers, a smokey bar with old guys telling war stories. That is not us; when purchasing our post home in 2008, the intention was to change that image, and we have. The most common compliment from guests is that we aren’t a smokey bar but an inviting family establishment.

Although my time as Commander is coming to an end, I don’t ever want to see us sway from these values. We owe it to our membership to continue to be the greatest version of The American Legion we can be. We must continue to educate ourselves on how our great organization operates. There are so many resources to learn about how our organization became the largest VSO in the nation. I would challenge everyone to take the free The American Legion Basic Training course @ [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org). Marcus Garvey said, “A people without the knowledge of their history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots.” Those words are very fitting when it comes to The American Legion. We must know our past to build the future.

I want to invite our members to the Installation of Officers Banquet Saturday, May 14 @ 5:00 PM. This is one of our time-honored traditions where we recognize those who have dedicated themselves to a year of service to our organization. Volunteers are the greatest asset this organization has, and just honoring the post officers isn’t enough. I owe every member of this post a thank you. Thank you for serving our nation, and thank you for everything you do to support the active-duty service members, veterans, and their families. From our members who only pay their annual dues to those who have given hundreds of hours, each of you makes a difference.

When I started as Post Commander, I found myself worried that because of COVID, we may not survive like many other organizations. But we did, and we came back even stronger than before. So again, I challenge our members to learn about The American Legion so we as a post can continue to go against the grain and be the best version of The American Legion we can be. We are the standard by which all other posts should be measured. And that’s not because of what I’ve done; it’s the result of what we’ve done together.

*Joseph Schmidt*  
Post 209 Commander





## From the desk of the Post Adjutant - May

You all should be aware of the changes set forth by the Executive Board Election on 9 April 2022 by now. Thank you to those members who came to the meeting and voted. I am presently in Oklahoma, spreading good tidings to other The American Legion members I encounter and thanking many veterans for their service. I have met many new acquaintances. I wish I had brought along a supply of Post 209 license plates to exchange. The new officers elected will commence their duties effectively on 1 July 2022. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

*Jerry Hopper*  
Post Adjutant



## From the desk of the Sr. Vice Commander

Why did you join The American Legion? I am sure someone asked you this question once or twice. My answer always refers to the four pillars of The American Legion. If you don't know, they are Children & Youth, Americanism, Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation, and National Security. These are among the main reasons I am a member of The American Legion.

Continuing my discussion last month on the four pillars, I will talk about Americanism this month. What is Americanism? Americanism is a belief in our country and all that makes America great. The American Legion shows this by supporting the U.S. Flag, the pledge of allegiance, and the U.S. Constitution that we all took an oath to support and defend. We do this through various programs within the Legion. Some of the more popular programs at our post are: Boys State, Oratorical Contest, and Junior Shooting.

Our post traditionally sends the most young men to Boys State, where the boys are immersed in the U.S. Constitution for a week setting up and running the 51<sup>st</sup> state. The Oratorical Contest is for boys and girls in High School; they prepare a speech on the Constitution. This program is growing within Colorado. The post has sent at least one contestant the last few years to the contest, with one contestant winning three years ago and going on to the National competition. Junior Shooting or Young Guns consistently has a waiting list. Young Guns teach firearm safety and run a marksmanship program for graduates of the Young Guns. We present JROTC medals at two local high schools for academic excellence and military excellence.

The Post Honor Guard always leads the way for the post in the Veterans Day parade and, when asked, has gone into local schools talking about the flag and Americanism. So, there is much more than what I have covered here. You can find more information on Americanism at legion.org. At the time of this article, we should have reached our 100% target set by Department for the year. Thank you all for renewing and recruiting for The American Legion. Thanks for your membership and all you do to help veterans.

*Marvin Weaver, Jr*  
Senior Vice Commander





## From the desk of the Unit President

Happy May, everyone!

Once again, I would like to take a moment to express how happy I am to represent you as your President for another year. I believe we had an incredible year of working within our community, assisting veterans & their families, and doing what Unit 209 Auxiliary does best, pretty much everything!

Your new Unit 209 officers are as follows: Royce Ann Hopper-President, Cathy Barger-Vice President, Pat Weaver-Secretary, Kellie Hayes-Treasurer/Membership Chair, Mary Bramer-Chaplain, Michelle Bresee-Sgt-at-Arms, Historian position is vacant, and Jackie Bowen-Member at Large. If you are interested in the Historian position, please reach out to someone on the Auxiliary Executive Board. Your new Executive Board will begin their year after the Department Convention June 30-July 1. Our May membership meeting will be held on 14 May and will be a dinner with the installation of officers. There will not be the usual breakfast as we will be making the special dinner. We hope all our members will be able to attend!

Now on to a few thoughts. As we get started on this new year, I want to hear from you with suggestions or ideas to further our footprint within our veteran community and the large community. My parents instilled a sense of community service and taught me to give as much as possible to make the world I lived in a better place. So, we should all ask ourselves, what type of place would I like my children (or even grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc.) to live in and grow? How can I make things better for them?

With our American Legion Auxiliary (and our Legion Family), we are in a unique position to answer the above questions positively. Still, we can lead the way for others to follow. I believe that when we invest in our youth and take the time to teach them, show them, and encourage them, it is an investment that will continue to pay off for generations to come after us. Promoting our children and youth programs is a master "key" to this type of community investment.

Happy birthday to the following May Auxiliary members: Cathy Barger, Micah Bowen, Lisa Ciuffetti, Annette Coakley, Cecilia Gray, Laurel Harman, Kris Mueller, Shelly Smith, Sarah Tobin, Tiffany Weaver, & me - Royce Ann Hopper.

*Royce Hopper*  
Unit President





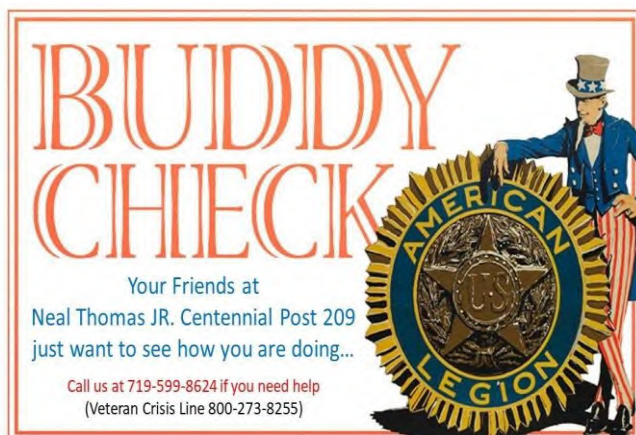
## From our Incoming Post Adjutant

Thank you for your trust in electing me to be your next Adjutant. Though I have not served in this position before, I am familiar with the duties and tools of the job. Having worked closely with my post and district adjutants while serving as Commander of both in the Department of Missouri, I am a 27-year member of The American Legion. Still, I didn't become an "active" member until nine years ago when I joined Post 626 in Gladstone, Missouri. I served in most of the positions and committees available to me across many aspects of our mission, including Sr. Vice Cdr., Historian, Honor Guard member, Fundraising Chair, Media & Communications Chair, and many more. There are not many programs or duties in a post that I have not participated in except Junior Shooting Sports and the Amateur Radio Club, which I am excited to learn more.

Like your outgoing Adjutant Jerry Hopper, my mission is to support you, the veteran. Jerry and I have worked together already to get me up to speed and lessen any negative impact a transition like this may induce. With his assistance and that of the incoming Commander, Marvin Weaver JR., who has also filled this position, it will be an almost seamless transfer of responsibilities. There will be changes, though, as we all have our way of doing things to reach the end goal and experiences and ideas, but bear with me and let me know if you feel I am stepping on any toes, which is not my aim.

Communication and planning are significant for me. Conversations will be held before changes are made, and the changes will be reasoned, planned, and evaluated. I try to keep Willy and Nilly in the barn as much as possible. There will be an Open-Door session scheduled where you know that you, the member, can find me in the office to fix any membership issues, take suggestions, and explain post or legion programs and opportunities. I would like to see more active members, and access to information and opportunities is a big part of that. I hope to gain the wealth of knowledge that is Jerry, Junior, and Jay to facilitate a well-run post, the largest post in the State of Colorado, and I am looking forward to getting to know you and every aspect of our post.

*Doug Milliser*  
**Adjutant-Elect**  
"Always Forward"





## From the desk of the Jr. Vice Commander

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the 14 May Installation Dinner at the post – that's PRIME RIB for \$15!!!. At our April meeting, Jay Bowen facilitated an engaging discussion on the traits required to be a great mentor. Are YOU Mentor-Worthy? McConnell Bristol will be our keynote speaker as a new facet of our plans for the annual installation dinner on 14 May. McConnell was a Post 209 sponsored delegate to Boys State and one of two Senators elected from his session to participate as delegates to Boy's Nation. This should be an exciting presentation on his experiences with the program. See you at the post!

*Steve Hays*

**Junior Vice Commander**



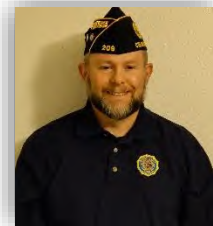
## From the desk of our Finance Officer

There is not a whole lot to say this month. The post is solvent, which is always the important thing everyone wants to know. The budgeting work is still progressing and will help plan for future expenses. Some of the higher costs, such as insurance, will be easier to manage by setting aside a monthly amount into a budgeted line item in the account ledgers. So, I began the effort to set aside the monthly amounts for the known expenditures. If anyone has additional ideas for the budgeting, please let me know so that we can look at working them into the finances.

We see the post returning to our pre-COVID status, supporting OUR veterans in the community. Dinners are even busier, with many more members coming out every week, which helps provide funding for the post to continue the different programs. Remember that any fundraising idea – big, small, unconventional (think about the impact of Kellie's Stick Pony Race) – is worth considering helping us get there. A little note to add here is that we will need your help with implementing your new idea if we move forward with it, especially if the idea is something you have done before.

*Joel W. Haas*

**Post Finance Officer**





## From the Chaplain

"How can I help you?" Remember when a friendly salesperson would smile and ask that question? When we still experienced customer service, the practice lived up to its name. I used it in Human Resources and as an educator. It is the perfect question for any servant of humanity. This was the first thing I asked when a lady Legionnaire from a tiny town in Idaho called The American Legion because she didn't know where else to go. "You called the right place," I replied. She was concerned about her brother, a veteran in Colorado Springs. Brian Murphy, our Service Officer, analyzed the situation, aided the gentleman, and gave the concerned lady peace of mind.

We live in a time when our communities, states, and nation are more divided than united. We are the most blessed, most prosperous nation, yet we still have hunger, poverty, homelessness, and addiction. We have diseases unconquered and crime in our neighborhoods. My students in "The World's Greatest Fifth Grade Class" were forbidden by their parents from watching the nightly news on television because it was too negative.

It's easy to stop right there, beneath the black clouds of the storm. Someone smarter than me once said, "You can't have a rainbow without the storm." None of the challenges mentioned are beyond a solution. Fortunately, talented folks with creative minds pool their talents and donate their time to community service. Each of us has a gift, and each has a talent. We cannot fix the world, but we can do what we can to improve things. It begins with neighbors helping neighbors. We call it "mutual helpfulness."

5 May is the National Day of Prayer. Will you pray with me? "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16) It's as if the Good Lord is waiting with a question: "How can I help you?" I have seen incredible, sometimes miraculous, results from the collective supplications of prayer warriors. Imagine what it can do for a nation if it can work for a person!

"May Day" is an ancient festival throughout Europe, marking the beginning of summer and a spring holiday. In the first grade in Waco, Texas, we danced around the "May Pole," had family picnics, and had fun on the local school grounds. It was a signal of better times to come. Don't forget Mothers' Day, 8 May! I was blessed with one of the best. If you still have your mother, hug her. You might even ask her a question, and I think you know what it is.

May is also military appreciation month, featuring Armed Forces Day (15<sup>th</sup>) and Memorial Day (30<sup>th</sup>). This week, I attended a celebration of our "Young Guns" accomplishments. I have a bit of embroidery on my Legion and SAL caps that reflect participation in the Cold War and Vietnam. As I reached for a piece of celebratory cake, a young JROTC cadet said, "Welcome Home, Sir." It was a sign of deep respect, and it felt terrific. So, let's work together in "mutual helpfulness." How can I help you?

*Brad Henderson*  
**Chaplain**  
Serving God and Country







## From our Honor Guard Captain

The schedule for April and May is changing quite often. The Honor Guard is being requested for more community events now because the word is getting out that we are here and support OUR community. We are keeping busy with Final Honors for OUR veterans. The Honor Guard continues to need help providing the Final Honors earned by veterans. We hope someone will be there to support the Final Honors we earned when OUR time comes. We have been fortunate to welcome four new team members in the last six weeks, and we are working on getting them trained up and ready to support. We can always use more team members; there is no such thing as “too many.” More members mean a higher likelihood of not turning down *any* Final Honors.

The daughter of a deceased Marine from WWII who fought on Iwo Jima (and survived) contacted the Honor Guard. She requests we provide the Full Final Honors for her father due to some issues with the Marines (we are helping work through the issues; it is what we do as part of our support for all families). While he passed away some time ago, he will now be interred at Pikes Peak National Cemetery with his Full Final Honors. While the family does not want a “big deal” for the service (i.e., no media), anyone who wants to attend is welcome. There will only be four people in attendance (three families and another), so I encourage anyone available to help show our support for this veteran and his family. The service is Friday, 20 May, with the procession departing from the Pikes Peak National Cemetery Administration building at 11:00 sharp!

The Honor Guard will also participate in the Memorial Day Ceremony at Pikes Peak National Cemetery. We will be performing a rifle salute in coordination with the gun (cannon) salute and possibly a musket salute. The ceremony is on Monday, 30 May, starts at 10:00, and is OPEN to the public. Attending this very important ceremony is an excellent use of time after spending way too long being restricted by COVID.

Reminder, Honor Guard members, supporting Final Honors events, effective immediately, a fuel stipend is provided., You can earn \$5 for supporting every two (2) qualifying events to help defray the fuel costs from the events. The Fuel Stipend is capped at ten (10) qualifying events (\$25) per month and will be paid to the Honor Guard members at the end of each month. However, this does not cover the total costs incurred, though, with fuel prices where they are, it helps. The biggest incentive for being an Honor Guard member is the sense of pride you get by helping provide Final Honors for OUR veterans and supporting OUR community.

In the interest of saving a little space, I will shorten the normal ending part of the article. While not everyone has a lot of time to participate in the Honor Guard, all someone needs are the time to participate a night or two for training meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month) and even just **ONE** event a month. Members of The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary are all eligible. If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please reach out to me.

*Joel W. Haas*

**Honor Guard Captain**

(719) 482-4496 or [honor.guard@legion209](mailto:honor.guard@legion209)





## From The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC)

What is Ham Radio?

Amateur Radio (ham radio) is a popular hobby and service that brings people, electronics, and communication together. People use ham radio to talk across town, worldwide, or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones.

If you are interested in learning about this intriguing hobby or participating in Legion 209 radio club events, call, email, or text me.

For all you existing Hams out there:

Is there something that the CLUB can do to spark your interest? Some event? Something, anything? If so, call, email, or text me.

Devoted to the Hobby and Art of Amateur Radio and Promoting The American Legion,

*Harvey LeCato*

**TALARC Secretary**

719-331-1212

mbca@comcast.net

W I J U



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For More Information

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(719) 599-8624

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\*Additional cost may apply

## Walk of Honor

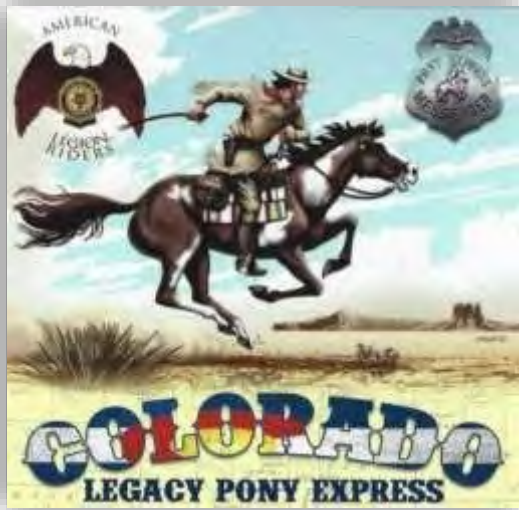


- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style and lettering desired but typically range from \$90 to \$200 depending on size.
- **What are the costs for the corporate/veteran supporter bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$250 to \$500.
- **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 veterans. The corporate bricks are for our veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who want to show their continued support for our nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the brick purchase restricted to members of the post 209 families?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves for their veteran loved one or to show their support for our veterans.
- **Where do I go to buy a brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit [legion209.org](http://legion209.org) and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. 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 set up to accept payment via PayPal or check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick, and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where will the brick be shipped?** All bricks will be 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 part of the landscaping design we are working on. 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 only to sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project.
- **Will I have an opportunity to buy a brick later?** Quite possibly, depending on what is decided/approved for the next phase of our project.

**Order your brick(s) now to ensure you get one in Phase One of our project. If you buy multiple bricks, let our Adjutant know, and we will make sure they are all placed together.**

## Legacy Scholarship Pony Express Run

Support the Children of our Disabled and Fallen by contributing to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship. Eligible recipients include the children of U.S. military members who died while on active duty on or after 11 September 2001 and children of post -9/11 veterans having been assigned a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs qualify. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship helps ensure higher education is a possibility for children who lost a parent to death on active duty or suffered a service-connected disability rated 50 percent or greater by V.A. since the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001.



Colorado The American Legion Post families across the state engage in fundraising efforts or contribute to the 2022 fundraising effort in conjunction with their program during the year. The donations received are consolidated at various relay stations across the state.

On 6 August 2022, Colorado The American Legion Riders will conduct the statewide Pony Express run, riding one of the designated routes to collect donations from the relay stations. All routes will reach a central collection point in the afternoon for a campaign celebration and some good old-fashioned fun.

If you're interested in participating or donating, contact:

American Legion Riders  
Department of Colorado  
7465 E 1st Ave D,  
Denver, CO 80230  
Phone: 719 -494 -7166  
Email: [coloradolegionriders@gmail.com](mailto:coloradolegionriders@gmail.com)  
Web: <https://alrco.org>

August 6th



## GUEST COMMENTARY



### Meet the Editor

You may have noticed a slight change to the look of the Centennial Newsletter this month. That is because you have a new editor. Over the next couple of months, Jay Bowen will transition the editor's responsibilities to me. This past month, I became a Legion member when my husband and I randomly decided to drop in to show our support. We met Jay, who talked me into joining and taking over the editor's role; coming from an Army family, I was happy to accept.

I first came to the Legion a couple of years ago when my sons participated in the Young Guns program. It was an excellent experience for both. They left the Young Guns for the opportunity to shoot at the Olympic Training Center, then both of my sons ended up joining the Army. One infantry, stationed at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and the other intelligence, stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana. I'm proud to say both have qualified as expert shooters since joining.

My husband, a retired Army infantry and civil affairs officer, has been a member of the Legion but has not participated in any of the events like most members. Now that we are empty-nesters, we find more time to engage in new activities. One of his favorite pastimes is telling war stories from his 30 years of service and multiple deployments. I figure the Legion should have no shortage of others wanting to share their experiences with him as well.

Just like my sons and husband, I was also in the Army. I left the day after I graduated high school for Army basic at Fort Jackson, went to Fort Gordon for training, then got stationed in Korea and Germany before getting out. It was an excellent way to serve my country while traveling and seeing the world.

I then went to college, majored in computer science, and have worked in cybersecurity for over twenty years. I have dedicated most of my career to protecting the DoD networks. However, last year I stepped away from DoD support and am now the Chief Technologist at a D.C. think tank. Feel free to follow my work and analysis here: <https://www.fdd.org/team/georgianna-shea/>

Now that you know a little about me, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am looking for assistance with the newsletter content, formatting, and contributions.

*Georgianna "George" Shea*

**Editor**

letters@legion209.org





## Bringing A Little South to the West

Growing up, just about every kid in America's favorite month of the year (other than December) was May. We knew school was about to let out, and time to start our summer vacation. Unless that is, you were dumb enough to have to go to summer school (10<sup>th</sup> grade). But that's for another article and another day.

May seemed to drag out and appeared to be the longest month. But as we got older and achieved the status of high schoolers, May was also a very event-filled month. So, we had Assemblies in preparation for the end of the year, final exams, and the Prom. Then, as we got nearer to graduation (10-12 grade), we also filled our school days getting our yearbook signed, and as a senior, our class rings.

I still have my Yearbooks from my Sophomore, Junior, and Senior years. It's fun to look through those old pictures and see how dorky we all looked. There were also several pictures of our teachers, the principal and staff, various clubs, sporting events, and cameos of students in a community setting. Man, I didn't realize how cool I looked in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. 😊 We didn't have individual pictures in the yearbook until we reached the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Back then, it was called Junior High. I guess now it's referred to as Middle School.

The tradition of passing around the yearbook and getting your closest friends (and wannabe girlfriends) to sign your yearbook was fun. Of course, you could count on some of them writing the classics, such as "2 young, 2 be, 4 gotten," and "Roses are Red, Violets are Blue..." So, I'll let you finish the rest. But the ones you wanted to see were those from your current "best girl," and those you were hoping had noticed you. If they wrote something mushy, you knew you had a chance, which may even lead to her wearing your ring!

May was also the month for planning how we would spend the summer. I could make any plans I wanted in my house, but Mom and Dad retained veto power, which they used frequently. The requirements to visit grandparents in Arkansas and help them pick cotton or harvest crops overrode my ability to go to the pool or lake. Even though we were paid for our labor in the fields, do you know how much cotton you must pick at \$.03 a pound to have any money? I never did get the hang of using both hands to pick, so it would take me all day even to reach 100 pounds. And all day in the cotton field was from sunup to sundown.

But still, as a kid growing up in the city and suburbs, you lived for those three months from the time you got promoted (hopefully) and moved closer to leaving school for good. Oh, and unlike today, you could fail a grade. Then you had a choice to make, repeat the entire grade or go to summer school (10<sup>th</sup>-grade nightmares).

*Jay Bowen*  
Past Post Commander



## EVENTS

### Vets4Vets Start of Summer Party

**Date:** 05-07-2022

**Time:** 4:00pm

**Location:** Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Drive, Colorado Springs,  
CO 80917

**Contact:** Ed Santos, Scott Laudan, Sean Cope

Annual Vets4Vets Spring fundraiser for local veteran causes throughout the year. ALR209 is the 2022 host for the event

Vets4Vets Colorado Springs Spring Party, 4 pm 7 May at The American Legion Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Drive, Colorado Springs.

Food Trucks, Live entertainment from Dancing on the Sun, Raffles, meat freezer drawing, and more. The club lounge will be open for the event.



### Trivia Night!



Do you want a chance to earn some money for knowing useless information? Or maybe a free beverage?

Do you know what the longest river in the world is? Do you know what the largest river in North America is? How about Roy Rogers's real name?

What is the President of the United States address?

If you know the answers to the above and other questions like these, or if you fancy yourself a trivia wizard, join us on **Friday, 20 May 2022** for our Trivia Night event.

Following dinner that night, the fun will start around 7:00 pm. You must be at the post for the beginning of the contest; late arrivals will not be allowed to play.

This will be a team event; teams can be as small as one person or up to four (4) can play on a team.







### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

For 14 years, Colorado Technical University™ has awarded 50 scholarships annually to positively impact the lives of the extraordinary men and women whose lives have been altered due to injury while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, CTU® has awarded 700 scholarships, totaling over \$16 Million.

### YOUR EDUCATION, ACCESSIBLE

CTU makes it possible for those serving in the U.S. Armed Forces—along with their families and caregivers—to earn a university degree anywhere, anytime. Scholarship recipients have the option to complete an associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree program online or at one of CTU's campuses in Colorado Springs or Aurora.

#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Active-duty members or honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces (including Reserves and National Guard) with a service-connected disability
- Spouses and unmarried dependent children of U.S service members with a service-connected disability
- Caregivers/non-medical attendants of a service member with a service-connected disability

#### RECIPIENTS RECEIVE

- Full tuition to any CTU degree program
- New laptop computer
- All course books, in hard-copy or electronic format
- Dedicated Student Success Coach and specially trained military education advisors
- 24/7 technical support and tutoring
- Option to study online or at one of CTU's campuses

#### IMPORTANT DATES

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>March 1, 2022</b>              | Application Window Opens |
| <b>June 30, 2022</b>              | Application Deadline     |
| <b>November 10, 2022</b>          | Recipients Announced     |
| <b>January/<br/>February 2023</b> | Recipients Start Class   |

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### SUPPORTING PATRIOTS IN COLLABORATION WITH



**START YOUR APPLICATION**  
[coloradotech.edu/CTUPatriot](http://coloradotech.edu/CTUPatriot)



Colorado Technical University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission, [www.hlcommission.org](http://www.hlcommission.org). CTU cannot guarantee employment, salary, or career advancement. University grants or scholarships are based on established criteria as published in the University Catalog and are awarded after verification that the conditions of eligibility have been met. RE01795259 2/22

## PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

### Young Guns



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

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

### Boy (and Girl) Scouts of America



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

- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls): p24@legion209.org
- Cub Scout Pack 386 (Boys and Girls): p386@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 77 (Girls): t77@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 79 (Boys): t79@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 187 (Boys): t187@legion209.org
- Venture Crew 762 (Young men and women ages 14-20): c762@legion209.org

### Boys and Girls State



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

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

### Oratorical Contest



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

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









### Eagle Scout of the Year



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

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	3	4	5 <small>Cinco De Mayo</small> Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	6 <small>Price Depends on Menu</small> Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	7 Vets4Vet Spring Party Post 209 - 4:00pm
8 <small>Mother's Day</small>  <b>Mother's Day!</b>	9 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	10 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm.  	11	12  Venture Crew 7:00pm	13 <small>Price TBD</small> SAL Dinner - 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	14 Installation Dinner 6:00pm Installation 5:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b>  
15	16 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	17 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	18	19 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	20 <small>\$17/Person</small> Steak Night! 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b>  <b>Trivia Night!</b>	21 <small>Armed Forces Day</small>
22	23 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	24 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	25 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	26  TALARC EC Meeting 5:00pm Venture Crew 7:00pm	27 <small>Price TBD</small> Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm <b>RSVP Required!</b> 	28 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
29	30 <small>Memorial Day</small>  <b>Memorial Day!</b>	31	Notes: <b>Membership Meeting Cancelled for May. Instead, we will have an Installation Dinner.</b>			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm   Venture Crew 7:00pm	3 <span style="color: red;">Price Depends on Menu</span>  Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	4
5	6 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm  Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	7	8	9  Venture Crew 7:00pm	10 <span style="color: red;">Price TBD</span>  ALR Dinner - 6:00pm <span style="color: red;">RSVP Required!</span> 	11 <span style="color: red;">\$9/\$10 b'fast per person</span>  Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
12	13 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	14 <span style="color: red;">Flag Day</span> Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  ALR Exec. Mtng  ALR 6:30pm. 	15	16  Venture Crew 7:00pm	17 <span style="color: red;">\$17/Person</span>  Steak Night! 6:00pm  <span style="color: red;">RSVP Required!</span> <span style="color: red;">Trivia Night!</span>	18 ALR209 Remembrance Ride for Monk Baylis 9:00am 
19 <span style="color: red;">Father's Day</span>  <span style="color: red;">Happy Father's Day!</span>	20 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	21 <span style="color: red;">Start of Summer</span> ALR Exec. Mtng  ALR 6:30pm. 	22  Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	23  TALARC EC Meeting 5:00pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	24 <span style="color: red;">Price TBD</span>  Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm  <span style="color: red;">RSVP Required!</span>	25  Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
26	27 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	28 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	29	30  Venture Crew 7:00pm	Notes:	