

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

I've been trying to figure out what to write about for my last article as Commander of Post 209. As many of you know, I rarely know what the subject will be until I sit down at the keyboard. But because this will be my last article as Commander, I wanted it to be something profound. Then I began to think, "I haven't said anything really profound in 4 1/2 years, so what makes me think I can start doing that now?"

There's an old saying, "If you want to hear God laugh, just tell him your plans!" I am the poster child of this. As far back as I can remember I have had many grandiose plans to cover just about everything I do. I planned to join the US Army for 3 years; 20 years later I retired. I planned to marry Jackie the day after Christmas; we got married the following month. I planned to have 4 kids (2 of each sex); we have two boys. Every job I've had since I retired from the Army I planned to work there until I retired; I'm just starting my 4th job (I really do plan to retire from this one). Maybe I need to better plan my retirement. I planned to serve as Commander of Post 209 for 2 years; 4 1/2 years later I am stepping aside. I could go on and on, but I think you get my point; don't hire me as a Strategic Planner.

Many people get upset when their long-range plans change. They seem disoriented and want to blame someone for something not working out as "they" expected. Often, plans change as a result of outside factors and influences that affect our world. For example, I joined The American Legion after my Father died and I was searching for something to occupy my time. I met a guy at a local Memphis grocery store who invited me to their Post. We became life-long friends, and I learned much later he was born the same month and year as my Dad. I moved to Colorado Springs because I was working for my brother, and I love my brother and wanted to continue to love my brother. So I had to leave his company and move. I just happened to be looking for a job at the same time an old Army buddy was looking for a Deputy Program Manager. If someone had suggested a month prior that I would be living in Colorado Springs on 1 August, 2005, I would have laughed. Coincidence? Nope, there's no such thing. Things happen for a reason. Change is not random, nor is the results just happenstance. And unless we step back and look at it holistically, we may never be able to connect the dots and see that there was "method behind the mad-



the results just happenstance. And unless we step back and look at it holistically, we may never be able to connect the dots and see that there was "method behind the madness." Even tragedy produces something positive. Again, we may never see the positive especially if we are too close to it. But there is a domino effect in each of our lives that will most of the time end on a very positive note for us or someone whose life we touched. For example, my father and I were very close. When he passed away, I was struggling with what to do with my time now that I wasn't going over to his house almost daily to visit. If he were still with us today, it is very unlikely I would have gotten involved in The American Legion, nor would I have even considered leaving Memphis to explore other opportunities. Don't misunderstand what I'm saying; I would give everything I own for just one more day with him, but his passing made me be open to other things. Not a good alternative, but not bad either.

I've learned to not only take changes in my life in stride, but to welcome them as I would an old friend. Most of the time it's like the old friend with a very warped sense of humor, but a friend none the less. This is a friend you will never lose, regardless of the decisions you make. Because he will always be there to help you through the changes and suggest others in the event the one you just made didn't work out. Oh, and the suggestions really aren't; they're going to happen anyway. He just wants you to think you have some control. That's the warped part.

I've been very fortunate in my life that for the most part, the changes which occurred have been better for my family, myself, and for most of those in my inner circle. It's not because I analyzed the change and calculated the move; it's because I trusted in God to always lead the way. He gets the credit, I just go along for the ride. And what a ride. There's also the part of my makeup that will not accept failure, so any decision I make regarding my life works out because I won't allow it not to. I adjust on the fly to make it work. Again, that's His work in me, not anything I do on my own. I guess my message to you this month is don't fret over changes. Embrace them. You may as well because it's going to happen anyway. By the way, this is not the article I planned to write this month.

For God and Country,
Jay Bowen



Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

We have two new Senior members, Amy Mitchell and Kris Mueller and two new Junior members, Emma and Addy Smith to welcome. Speaking of Juniors, if anyone would like to be our Junior Auxiliary Chairperson, we're accepting volunteers.

The Installation of new officers and banquet were great. We had a full house for both. Thank you Ladies for the beautiful Willow Tree Angel you presented to me at the Installation. It has been my honor to serve as your Auxiliary President for the past 8 years. I appreciate you putting your trust in me to lead this wonderful Auxiliary Unit. As I've stated in the past we have a great Unit. Thank you again for your trust and loyalty. I will stop now or chance burning up my keyboard with tears dripping. I want to take this opportunity to explain some of the "special" things we do throughout the year for the benefit of our new members. We crochet and/or knit helmet liners and send to the deployed troops (I will check with our new web master to see if we can put the patterns on the website for easy access). A few of our Unit members are members of GIGSS (G.I. Grannies for Soldiers Support). Each month GIGSS' supports the monthly birthday parties for our Wounded Warriors. Our Unit donates 7 cakes a month for the wonderful event. If you would like to bake something for the parties you can contact me at 719-574-1223 or jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com and I will connect you with Marilyn Stites, our official GI Granny rep. If you would like to learn more or be a GI Granny go to their website www.gigss.webs.com Annually we go to McCandless VA Nursing Home (August) in Florence for an Ice Cream Social and to Pueblo VA Nursing Home (Sept) for All Activities Day. If you want to know more about any of these projects my contact information is listed above and all throughout the newsletter.

It's been my pleasure and honor to serve this Legion family.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,
Jackie Bowen



Let's Have a Picnic!

We will have our annual Summer picnic on Friday, 4 July (Independence Day!) at 1300 hours. It is Potluck, so bring your favorite cookout side dish that will feed your family and about 5 more. We will provide the Burgers, 'Dogs, Buns, and condiments. See you there!



D Day 70th Anniversary: A Look Back By Historian Rob Johnson

During World War II (1939-1945), the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control. Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France's Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning. Prior to D-Day, the Allies conducted a large-scale deception campaign designed to mislead the Germans about the intended invasion target. By late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and by the following spring the Allies had defeated the Germans. The Normandy landings have been called the beginning of the end of war in Europe.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower called the operation a crusade in which "we will accept nothing less than full victory." More than 5,000 ships and 11,000 aircraft supported the invasion, and by day's end, the Allies gained a foot-hold in France. The D-Day cost was high with more than 9,000 Allied soldiers killed or wounded as they marched across Europe to defeat Hitler began.

Thanks for the Memories

After 4 1/2 years of serving and representing you as Commander, it is time for me to step aside and turn the reins over to Greg Smith, our incoming Post Commander. I've worked with Greg for a couple of years now on projects and events and will tell you I am confident you will find him an excellent choice to continue the programs we have started together and worked hard to maintain.

Serving as the Commander of Centennial Post 209 has been one of the highlights of my life and I feel extremely blessed that you have entrusted me with this awesome job for so many years. I am not fading away. I will maintain a very active role on the Executive Committee as the Immediate Past Post Commander and I am also planning to seek the position as a Department Junior Vice Commander at the annual Department Convention in June. I ask that you show Greg the same level of support you have given me.

Thanks to all for the opportunity, and thanks for the memories!

For God and Country,
Jay



Young Guns

As of this writing, our second Junior Shooting class is in its final weeks. Our young shooters have been learning the standing, kneeling and prone positions and as always, SAFETY, SAFETY and more SAFETY. The final weeks of the class will include a contest to determine the top shooter in the group and will conclude with a pizza party and awards. Our shooters are doing well and scoring bulls-eyes from the 10 meter mark. When the class ends, they will be encouraged to continue practicing for NRA marksmanship awards and the American Legion Postal contest at year's end.

We are now recruiting for our next class, which will begin on 10 September 2014. The class will be held on Wednesday evenings from 1830 to 2030 and will be limited to 12 students. The class is open to boys and girls ages 10 through 18. All participants and a parent, guardian or other responsible person will be required to attend all classes. At this time, we have 5 registrants for the course, so don't delay if you are thinking of joining the class. Please contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email adjutantsal209@gmail.com for more information or to register.

The Young Guns of Centennial Post 209 would like to once again thank Sportsman's Warehouse for being a sponsor of our Junior Shooting program!

Junior Shooting Committee:

Ken Taylor 719-495-8190 adjutantsal209@gmail.com (Chairman)

Rick Kettering 813-967-6680 commandersal209@gmail.com

Rusty Bower 682-478-9122 financesal209@yahoo.com

Gunny Raines 719-597-4766 gunnyr1@yahoo.com

Bill Weeks 719-597-4670 (No Email)

Chuck Sorrels 724-249-4849 (No Email)



Senior Vice Commander: Transition is upon us....

Gregory Smith

The Centennial Post has continued to set the bar high for the State of Colorado American Legion Posts. As of this writing, we have 953 members in Post 209. What an accomplishment for our Legion family to experience in 2014. We have become a model for others. Thank you all for your networking and talking to others about the American Legion Centennial Post 209.

As an organization, we have to do things as a family. A family approach is having a place for each member of the family. If you know a Veteran, talk to them about being a member of the American Legion. If you are a spouse or daughter, talk to us about the American Legion Auxiliary or the Junior Auxiliary. If you are a son, grandson, or great grandson of a Veteran, talk to us about the Sons of the American Legion. If you have a passion to ride a motorcycle and "Ride for Veterans," talk to us about the American Legion Riders. If you have an interest in gun safety and are age 10 to 18, talk to us about our junior shooting programs.

Because membership is the way to share our purpose, strengthen our voice in Congress, and support our Veterans, we have a membership challenge going on from May 5th to May 31st. The process is a points system. You, as the recruiter, get one point for each member you bring in during the membership drive. If the new member also joins one of our programs, you get a point for that as well. The person with the most points wins. The WINNER will receive four tickets, seats behind home plate, for the June 5th Colorado Rockies vs Arizona Diamondbacks game. Good Luck!

Volunteerism is a continued need for the Post 209 family. Please look at the schedule of events (on the newsletter calendar or website calendar) and see when there is a time for you and your family to be a volunteer. It does not matter if you have one hour or you have several hours. It all supports our Veterans.



From The Commander Centennial Squadron 209 Rick Kettering

With Memorial Day approaching, people are going to honor those that have given our freedom to us. With that, I would like to see our Squadron members take a few minutes to look at the SAL handbook and answer the ten questions for the first point of the Five-Star Program. It is on Patriotism. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than awarding members of Squadron 209 the first point for patriotism, as well as all the others. Anyone wanting to earn the Points and the Five-Star let me know and I can e-mail the packet, or if no e-mail I would gladly mail it. My e-mail is commandersal209@gmail.com or call me @ 813-967-6680.

We are still looking for a Vice Commander If anyone is interested let Ken Taylor or me know. The main focus for the Vice Commander is membership enrollment activities and to fill in for the Commander if needed.

MACY'S SHOP FOR A CAUSE!

Our Auxiliary Unit will be selling coupon tickets as a fundraiser with Macy's. The coupon date and fundraiser is Saturday, August 23, 2014. We will be selling the tickets for \$5 ea. and we get to keep all monies collected. With this ticket you get 25% off all your purchases for the entire day (23rd of August). Plus you get a chance to put your name in the hat for a \$500 Macy's gift card. Please help us raise funds by either selling or purchasing (or BOTH) tickets. We had some members last year purchase them for gifts. These coupons are good at any Macy's store. Hopefully, I will have received the 100 tickets we are selling by the time this newsletter is printed.



From the Scout Coordinator

John Brown

Well, Troop 321 is making an impact on the Legion Post home. After removing 4 1/2 truckloads of limbs on Monday night 12 May, two of the Troop's young men moved to the Eagle Scout rank. Brett McKenzie and Jeff Mix both earned their eagle rank and both are just turning 18. They will be missed in the Boy Scout program as they must move on; hopefully we will see them back as Assistant Scout masters in the future. I received a note from Brett that stated, "Thank you and the American Legion for chartering Troop 321 so I could continue on to earn Eagle." It was an honor.

The two Packs are continuing with their scouting adventure by having graduation ceremonies the end of May and first of June. All boys will move up one rank and wear their new scarves and uniforms. There will be a lot of smiling parents in both Packs. Also summer events including summer day camp, resident camp, Sky Sox events, shooting events, visits to parks all happening over the summer with regular meetings starting in Aug/Sep time frame.

Let's all hope they have a fun filled and safe summer time being boys in Colorado.



American Legion Riders Post 209

The ALRs' meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. They will start at 6:30 pm at the American Legion Centennial Post 209 in Colorado Springs, CO. Our address is 3613 Jeannine Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917. The last few meetings have had comradeship hour at 5:30 (That is food). Please come and learn what the ALR Post 209 is doing within the community.

Our events are posted on the Centennial Post 209 website calendar. They are identified with an ALR indicator. Please review the calendar and find a ride(s) that meets your needs and our mission; "Ride for Veterans." Our goal is to ride and show the community we represent our Veterans in all that we do in life.

The American Legion Riders email is alrpost209@yahoo.com. If you have any questions or comments, please email us so that we can assist you in being a member of the American Legion Rider Post 209. Our dues for the year are \$35 (annually) and the patch set is \$40 (one time fee).

Our next general membership meetings are July 22, 2014 and August 26 at 6:30 pm. Please come and share the comradeship of the riders. We look forward to meeting you at a meeting or event soon.

Over the last month, the Riders have continued to grow and engage with the community. We rode in the 1st Annual Run 4 the Fallen, 7th Annual Defenders of Freedom, and have Post 209 riders in the 26th Annual Run for the Wall. The scheduled ride for the month of April was cancelled due to weather. With the Memorial holiday and several District and Department events, the ALR did not schedule a monthly ride for May.

In the coming months, the ALR have scheduled several rides:

June 8th, 2014, Pikes Peak Fallen Officers Memorial Ride
July 20th, 2014, Fairplay 1 (scheduled ride)
July 26th, 2014, McCandless State Veterans Home Ride
August 9th, 2014, Colorado Springs ALR Post's Scavenger Hunt
August 16th, 2014, POW/MIA recognition Ride

Our membership is at 27 members. We are in the riding season and look forward to you becoming an American Legion Rider at Post 209. We understand life and family, so we can support your needs.

FROM THE ADJUTANT: LARRY L. JOHNSON

I would like to start off with a thank-you to everyone who sent me cards or emails on my Mother's passing.

It is once again the time of year that everyone awaits, and that is the renewal process for 2015, which will start 1 July 2014.

I have already sent letters out to those members who had paid twice for their 2014 membership and informed them that I was applying it to their 2015 renewal. If you would like to get an early start you can send me a check or money order made out to American Legion Post 209 for \$35.00 and mail it to American Legion, PO Box 25334, Colorado Spg, CO 80936. I will send your 2015 card as soon as I get your remittance. If you do send it early please put your membership number on the check and if you haven't already done so please send in a copy of your DD Form 214 or copy of discharge papers and please include your email address.

There are a couple of ways to eliminate the renewal process. 1) You could join the Colorado Advanced Membership Payment Plan. 2) You could become a Paid up For Life Member. If you would like information about one or both of these methods, please let us know and we will provide that information.

I am getting a lot of return addresses from the Post Office that says, "**Moved No Forwarding Address.**" If you have not given me an email address, I mark your record as undeliverable until I get a new address. If you have given me an email I will try to contact you for a new address.

I would like to thank you for the support that you have given me while I was the Adjutant. This year we really were a success. We are going to finish the year with over 950 Legionnaires for 2014. We accomplished something this year that I have not seen since I have been in the Post; you recruited more than 102 new Legionnaires. WELL DONE! As you may know by now, Marvin Weaver Jr will be replacing me as Adjutant of the Post and is going to require all the support you can give him. I am going to run for the Department Senior Vice Commander this year and may not have the time to do the Adjutant duties and the Department Senior Vice Commander. I will be around as much as possible to help Marvin get membership done.

Independence Day

Variously known as the Fourth of July and Independence Day, July 4th has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution (1775-83). In June 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies then fighting in the revolutionary struggle weighed a resolution that would declare their independence from Great Britain. On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, an historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

From 1776 until the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with typical festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.





Post Officers 2013-2014

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Sr. Vice Cdr	Greg Smith	520-784-3555
Jr. Vice Cdr	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Adjutant	Larry Johnson	719-622-0344
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	682-478-9122
Chaplain	Chet Dean	719-244-2442
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Rob Johnson	719-421-9201
Post Executive Committeeman	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Service Officer	C. "Gunny" Raines	719-597-4766
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610



Auxiliary Officers 2013-2014

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Linda O'Riley	719-597-5673
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555
Sergeant-At-Arms	Lois Wooton	719-599-8683
Historian	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-7193



Sons of The American Legion 2013-2014

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
1st Vice Commander		
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	682-478-9122
Sgt-At-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Chaplain	Chet Dean	719-244-2442
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2013-2014

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Greg Smith	520-784-3555
Secretary	John Duenas	719-291-9733
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	682-478-9122
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Mike Barger	719-290-3218



Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events




3 Jul	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
4 Jul	Hamdogger 6:00 pm CANCELLED!
4 Jul	PICNIC Potluck! 12:00 noon
12 Jul	Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am SAL Mtg 11:30 am
18 Jul	Steak Night! 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
22 Jul	ALR Meeting 6:30 pm
25 Jul	Fish Fry 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
1 Aug	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
2 Aug	Ice Cream Social - McCandless VA Nursing Home, Florence 12:00 noon
7 Aug	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
9 Aug	Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am SAL Mtg 11:30 am
9 Aug	ALR Scavenger Hunt
15 Aug	Steak Night! 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
16 Aug	ALR POW/MIA Recognition Ride
22 Aug	Fish Fry 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
26 Aug	ALR Meeting 6:30 pm
1 Sept	LABOR DAY!
4 Sept	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
5 Sept	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
13 Sept	Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am SAL Mtg 11:30 am
13 Sept	ALR Vet 4 Vet Ride
19 Sept	Steak Night! 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
23 Sept	ALR Meeting 6:30 pm
26 Sept	Fish Fry 6:00 pm RSVP REQUIRED
2 Oct	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
3 Oct	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
11 Oct	Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am SAL Mtg 11:30 am

THE AMERICAN LEGION
 CENTENNIAL POST 209
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~ June 2014 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bikers United for America Ride 	2	3	4	5 Executive Committee Meeting 1830 hrs. 	6 Hamdogger; 1800hrs RSVP not Required 	7
8 Fallen Officers Memorial Ride 	9	10	11	12	13	14 Legion, SAL, Auxiliary, Meetings 1000 hrs. Breakfast at 0900 hrs. 
15 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	16	17	18	19 Dep't Convention Lamar, CO 	20 Dep't Convention Steak Night 1800 hrs. RSVP Req'd 	21 Dep't Convention 
22 Dep't Convention 	23	24 ALR Post 209 Meeting 1830 hrs. 	25	26	27 Fish Fry 1800 hrs. RSVP Req'd 	28
29	30	Notes:				