

# The Centennial



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June 2015

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## From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Gregory Smith

I have been told that summer is fast approaching; however, when I look outside, I sometimes have to wonder. I know I have been told several times; just wait 15 minutes and the season you are looking for will be available shortly. Oh, so true. Colorado Springs is such a beautiful location to help others, collaborate with colleagues, and to develop friendships which many times involves gathering to talk about the things that are going on and plans for the coming weekend. I look forward to these events and many times it is at the Centennial Post. A place for colleagues and friends to gather and discuss how to help others and what we can do as a Post to help the community. What a special time to be proud of the members and friends within the Post Legion family.

I know the summer is a time for family, the celebration of our Nation, and the opportunity to work and share things with the community. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Centennial Post will celebrate Flag Day by having a Flag Disposal Ceremony to honor those flags that have served our country proudly. It will be at 1:00 pm at the Post. If you or your friends have not had the opportunity to see such a ceremony, please come and join us. We would be proud to have you watch, participate, and enjoy the patriotism demonstrated by the Post members and community supports. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, we will continue our Americanism and Patriotism by having another Flag Disposal Ceremony. The ceremony will be at 12:30 at the Post. The Centennial Post 209 Color Guard will present the Colors of our Nation. We are hoping to have the boys and girls Scouts in attendance. They have always been a huge support and bring a special meaning to Americanism and Patriotism. I sometimes feel this is an event or spirit that has been lost in many of our youth. After the ceremony, we will gather for a potluck picnic to share our joy for this beautiful country and community, interact with members, and introduce new Veterans and their families to what the American Legion can do for them and identify their benefits.



## TEAM = Together Everyone Achieves More

As the Post continues to grow, we need to work on sharing our mission with as many Veterans as possible. We are at 985 members and as you know, I challenged us to reach 1,000 members by the Convention. We can do this and show other Posts how to identify with the "Legion Family" model. It has been a blessing to our members and the leadership. "If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you."

Mentioning the Convention, it is just around the corner. It will be at the Elegante Hotel in Colorado Springs, June 25-28. Look at your schedule and see how you can attend and show your support to the American Legion. It is also an opportunity for our Post to generate funds to help us help more Veterans and help us continue to serve our members and their families. The Convention has a lot of information about the American Legion. It has workshops to help Veterans learn about their benefits. During the Convention, there will be several opportunities for you as Post members to help so please come and get involved. I would be proud to have you for an hour or several days. The hotel does have discount rates for those that need to stay at the hotel. Call today and tell them that you are there for the Convention.

I have been looking over the last several months and have noticed a great trend and investment into the Post. The membership is higher than ever before; the SAL is larger than ever before; the American Legion Riders are strong and vested in the community; the attendance to events have been larger than ever before to include Friday night dinners and the general membership meetings. I recall one meeting having over 70 Legionnaires. Awesome all.

As the summer approaches, please keep in mind our children are out of school, the season for motorcycles is upon us and they will ride most days (look both ways and be aware), and the ALR have some 57 rides on the schedule. Post Picnic coming; bring goodies to share with your Legion family.



## THE LAST YEAR

Auxiliary Unit 209 President Kari Ann Smith

The last year working with you all has been wonderful. I am proud to be a part of such a great organization. While I won't be the President of the Auxiliary next year, I will still be there to support our efforts. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve in the position of President. I learned a great deal. Jackie Bowen will do a great job next year, leading the Auxiliary as President. Kathy Barger will be your Vice President, Lynn Thomas will be the Secretary, Kelly Hayes will be taking over as Treasurer, Joan Ciani will be the Chaplain, Donna Testorff will be the Sgt At Arms and I will be Historian.

We worked hard this last year and I look forward to working along side you all this year. Thank you to all of the ladies that have stepped up and served in a position, I appreciate each and every one of you.

See you all at convention!



## FROM THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

Eric Testorff

The officers and members of Centennial Post 209 would like to invite the public to observe the American Legion ceremony for the disposal of unserviceable flags on Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015.



The American Legion established the Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags, outlined in Resolution No. 440, passed by the 19th National Convention in New York, Sept. 20-23, 1937. The ceremony has been an integral part of American Legion ritual since that date.

On Dec. 22, 1942, the 77th Congress approved Public Law 829, establishing the Flag Code in Title 36, U.S. Code, Chapter 10, Sections 173-

178, including the Flag Code § 176(k) on disposal of unserviceable flags.

Resolution No. 373, approved by the National Convention of The American Legion meeting in Chicago, Illinois, September 18-20, 1944, re-emphasized the purpose of proper public Flag disposal ceremonies and encouraged greater use of this ceremony by The American Legion. The resolution adopted is as follows:

**WHEREAS**, Our Flag which we love and cherish

**WHEREAS**, In a proper service of tribute and memory and love, our Flag becomes faded and worn and must be honorably retired from life; and

**WHEREAS**, Such retirement of Flags that have become unserviceable may be done in public with respectful and honorable rites: therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, That The American Legion in convention assembled at Chicago, Illinois, September 18-20, 1944, urge that the National Headquarters use all means to foster and promote through the proper channels, the greater use of the official American Legion Ceremony for the Disposal of Unserviceable Flags as outlined in the Manual of Ceremonies; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That Flag Day, June 14, be recommended as the most appropriate day on which to annually hold this ceremony.

This is a good time to bring friends, neighbors, and especially our youth to observe a highlight of American life and respectful citizenship, which is becoming less and less known in society today. We hope you are able to attend our ceremony at American Legion Centennial Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs.

**Editor's Note:** By the way, this is also the US Army's 240th Birthday! Go Army! Lookin' Good!

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

## YOUNG GUNS



## POST 209 YOUNG GUNS

Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Adjutant Ken Taylor



The Young Guns will be working on NRA Marksmanship qualifications through May 20<sup>th</sup> 2015. We will then take a summer break until August 5<sup>th</sup> 2015, when we will resume marksmanship practice. Several shooters have signed up to earn their rockers for Pro Marksman, Marksman, Marksman 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Sharpshooter and Expert.

So far, five new shooters have qualified for Pro Marksman and Marksman. The next class will begin on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. If you would like information on junior shooting classes please contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email at [adjutantsal209@gmail.com](mailto:adjutantsal209@gmail.com).



### FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK

Chaplain Stan Hamamoto

Now it is June and ½ of the year is gone. June 21 is Father's Day and also it is the first day of summer. We also have D Day June 6 and Flag Day June 14. On June 25 the Korean War began. Then one important few days is June 25 to June 28, and that is our Department Convention. It is right here in Colorado Springs, at the Elegante Hotel. Being that it is in our own back door, we should all attend this Convention. If you have never been to one, this is a great opportunity to go to one. If you can't make it all those days, just attend the Saturday session. Especially the after lunch session on Saturday. This is when all of the voting is done for our new officers for the 2015-2016 year. We have three members of our Post running for office this year. Larry Johnson for Department Commander, Jay Bowen for Senior Vice Commander, and I will be running for Department Chaplain. What if all three of us get elected??? That would mean that Post 209 would have three Department Officers in the same year. WOW!!!! Wouldn't that be something??? Let's not forget all of our Veterans and Veteran families who are in need.

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

Pastor Stan



### FROM THE ADJUTANT

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

I would like to thank you for electing me to another year as the Post Adjutant. We have had a good year this past year. We have made our goal for membership that was given to us by Department and are closing in on the goal that the Executive Board made of 1,000 members of the Post.

I am currently working on completing our Consolidated Report (Annual Report) and the numbers are looking good. We have done a lot to help out our fellow Vets, our community and our children. Keep up the good work!! We still have more to do before the year is over. Department Convention is coming up and that will be our time to shine for the Department.

Thanks for everything you have done to help our Post!



### FROM THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Don Shuck

On behalf of our Commanders and Officers of Post 209 and Squadron 209, we would like to welcome these new members to the SAL; Michael Cooke, Jeff Fettig, Jon Foskey, Joe Gilbert, Gary Hamamoto; Wyatt Houchin, Chris Keith, Kevin Linville, Jerry Lollar, Lanny Lollar, Jimmy Ross, Ronny Ross, and Ronald Scribner.

For God and Country.

## CHAIRMAN OF THE VA CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Vic Fernandez

### VETERAN BURIALS (re-printed by request)

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

I tell this story as a precaution to the readers of this article to research the rules and regulations of the individual military service cemeteries prior to making plans for your final resting place. The Army owns several cemeteries including the West Point Cemetery and Arlington Cemetery. The West Point Cemetery rules are very much like the Air Force Academy rules. Arlington Cemetery was the property of General Robert E. Lee prior to the Civil War, and was taken by the Union at the end of the war for use as a burial site for Union soldiers who lost their lives against the Confederacy. Arlington Cemetery is now the burial ground for Veterans from every war since the 1860's, and for many distinguished Americans. Arlington burial sites are no longer able to handle all the Veterans that would like to be interred there, so additional acreage is being added, and the rules about who can be buried there in the future, have been re-written and are more restrictive. The Navy has a cemetery at Annapolis, with rules that parallel the rules at the other service academies. They also have primary responsibility for Pearl Harbor burials and burials at sea.

The Veterans Administration has responsibility for most of the National Cemeteries, and their cemeteries are available to all Veterans who have been Honorably Discharged from their military service, as well as service members who die during their honorable service to the Nation. To learn more about your Veterans and spousal burial or inurnment rights, I recommend you check with the Retirement Service Officer or Veterans Service Officer at your nearest Army or Air Force installation, or Veterans Administration Facility. Or you may go online to [va.gov](http://va.gov) or to [http.adm.elpasoco.com/veteran\\_services/](http://adm.elpasoco.com/veteran_services/)



### Post 209 Judge Advocate

Chuck Zeitvogel

There are nine high schools in El Paso County that currently have Junior ROTC (JROTC) programs. They are listed here with their branch of service and approximate number of students enrolled in their programs. The student enrollment changes as student interest does. Enrollment numbers for this past spring (that I have) were:

Air Academy – Air Force with 277 cadets

Doherty – Navy with 170 cadets

Falcon – Air Force with 250 cadets

Fountain-Fort Carson - Army

Harrison – Air Force with 140 cadets

Mesa Ridge - Navy

Mitchell – Air Force with 300 cadets

Sand Creek – Air Force with 165 cadets

Widefield - Navy

From these numbers one can see the high interest in JROTC at these schools. Perhaps a reason is for those students who excel in JROTC big college scholarships are available. This past year I heard about one graduating senior getting a scholarship valued at \$86,000.00. Post 209 has supported Mitchell High School for the past 10 or more years, perhaps longer. Other schools are supported or have a connection with other Posts. When I speak of support I am referring to showing up for their award ceremonies and presenting American Legion medals for scholarship and leadership. The American Legion National Americanism Commission lists Courage, Honor, Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Patriotism as their objectives and there are medals for these. Check out the National Americanism Commission for information regarding their objectives. There is flexibility in what an American Legion Post might do depending on their resources. Junior ROTC programs may be administered different but the one thing they have in common is that they are “Living Laboratories” in which students learn leadership skills that for most last them a life time. Parents of students enrolled in JROTC programs have every reason to be proud of accomplishments achieved by their cadet.



# 2015 Department of Colorado Convention Golf Tournament



Join us for the Annual Department of Colorado Golf Tournament. This is a great tradition played at one of the best golf venues on the Front Range. This year we have special rules to make the event more fun!

## Silver Spruce Golf Course, 401 Glasgow Ave. Peterson Air Force Base Thursday, 25 June, 2015

- 7:00am Registration
- 7:45am Rules briefing
- 8:00am Play begins with a Shotgun Start
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch at Post 209; Prizes are awarded

**Plan to arrive early. Peterson AFB personnel begin their duty day at 0730, so traffic at all the gates will be heavy. Must enter from the West Gate Only unless you have an ID card. Maps will be provided electronically to all registered entrants.**

**COST:** \$85 per person or \$325 per pre-registered foursome. Entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart, prizes, tournament memento, and lunch.

**FORMAT:** Four-Person Scramble

**PRIZES:** Team low gross (3); Closest to the pin; Longest drive.

You may enter as a single or as a group. If you do not have a foursome, we will fill your group. Please complete the information below and return this entry with your payment to:

Jay Bowen  
6404 Showhorse Ct  
Colorado Springs, CO, 80922

For more information, please contact Jay at 901-484-7193 or email: [LegionnaireJay@yahoo.com](mailto:LegionnaireJay@yahoo.com)

Please make checks payable to The American Legion, Post 209

Name

Avg. Score

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## BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

Immediate Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

I have been very blessed my entire life. I have three siblings; a sister six years older, a brother a year older (he put the “Red” in Redneck), and a sister a year younger than me (the baby and also the smart one in the family). My parents could have been the model for a few of the TV parents from the 50’s, such as Ozzie (Nelson, not Osborne) and Harriett, or Father Knows Best. In retrospect, I was probably closer to being much like Dennis the Menace. Both sets of grandparents lived on farms about 5 miles from each other in rural Arkansas about an hour’s drive from Memphis where I grew up. We spent most weekends and vacations at either/both their homes. I didn’t lose the first one of my grandparents until about 5 years in the Army. Even though I was a “city boy,” I was raised as a good ole country boy and all that that implies.

I remember vividly growing up in the 50’s and 60’s and witnessing the birth of some of the greatest technological advances we have ever seen in such a short period of time. And with that, I wanted to see us keep up with the changes. Dad on the other hand, not so much. He and I had several conversations that went something like, “Wow, wouldn’t it be great to have an Air Conditioner in our house?” Dad would look at me and say, “Boy, I’d rather live next door to somebody that has an Air Conditioner than to have one of my own.” Part of that response was because Dad worked for the Hunter Fan Company and at that time they didn’t make Air Conditioners. They made Window, Floor, Desk, and Ceiling Fans. Also, as with most new technology, mass production of Air Conditioners for homes meant high maintenance and a higher utility bill because they drew so much power. And because the overwhelming majority of homes was not vented for Air Conditioning, your only option was a window Air Conditioner. That was great for whoever happened to be in the vicinity of the unit, but if you were on the other end of the house, you really didn’t benefit much. An open window in my bedroom at night drew in good cool air from the Window Fan blowing “out” in the kitchen. I doubt I would have gotten any benefit from an Air Conditioner. It was a moot point anyway because we could not afford one of those fancy luxuries. As with most people in those days, we didn’t have much in the way of discretionary spending at the end of the month. So luxury items such as Air Conditioning, Color TV’s, cars with Automatic Transmission, and later, CB radios, and “Pay for TV” was something we only read about. But, being a boy growing up in an ever-changing world and not understanding economics, I couldn’t help but ask when it was our turn to own one of these marvelous wonders. And each time Dad would just look at me and say, “Boy, I’d rather live next door to somebody who has a car with an Automatic Transmission than to have one.”

As you’ve read from some of my previous articles, I am convinced more today than ever that my 6<sup>th</sup> grade educated Father was one of the smartest men I’ll ever meet. My problem is that it took so long for me to recognize that. I was in my late 20’s or early 30’s before I realized that many of his colloquialisms carried messages I live by even today. In this instance, I believe he was telling me we shouldn’t waste our time and money on things of little use and technology not fully tested. I’ve already mentioned the Air Conditioners. Automatic Transmission in the earlier cars had more hours in the shop than on the road. And the resale value was far less than a “stick shift.” The early CB’s had short range and very poor voice quality. “Pay for TV” (a.k.a. Cable) was very expensive and didn’t really offer more entertainment. Dad would rather spend his hard-earned money taking us kids on an annual vacation to the mountains or to “The Lake.”

After I finally learned my lesson, I remember when my boys first asked for a Pager. I smiled and said, “Boy, I’d rather live next door to somebody who had a Beeper than to have one of my own.” They probably still think I’m nuts!



## DEPARTMENT CONVENTION 2015



Plan on attending the Department Convention 25-28 June at the Elegante Hotel at I-25 and Circle. This is a great opportunity to see your Department at work and participate in the many events at Convention. This will be an exciting Convention. For the first time in SEVERAL years, we have at least 4 positions being challenged so there will be contested elections! Our own **Larry Johnson, Jay Bowen, and Pastor Stan Hamamoto** are among the candidates vying for an office. Larry is running for Department Commander, Jay is running for Senior Vice Commander, and Pastor Stan is running for Department Chaplain. Come out and give them your support. Contact the Post for more information on events and for volunteer opportunities.



## Post Officers 2014-2015

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



## Auxiliary Officers 2014-2015

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



## Sons of The American Legion 2014-2015

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



## ALR Officers 2014-2015

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



## Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events



2 July	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
3 July	Hamdogger Night 6:00 pm
4 July	July 4 <sup>th</sup> Picnic Potluck Dinner, Flag Disposal Ceremony
10 July	ALR "The American Meal" Dinner 6:00 pm, <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
11 July	General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am
17 July	Steak Night! 6:00 pm, <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
24 July	Fish Fry 6:00 pm, <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
25 July	McCandless BBQ Florence CO
28 July	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 social hour) (6:30 meeting) SAL Membership Meeting (6:00)
6 Aug	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
7 Aug	Hamdogger Night <b>CANCELLED!</b>
8 Aug	General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am
8 Aug	ALR Scavenger Hunt (ALR Fundraiser)
14 Aug	Cripple Creek POW/MIA Ride
14 Aug	ALR Dinner 6:00 pm
17 Aug	ALR Board Meeting 6:00pm
21 Aug	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
25 Aug	ALR General Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 Meeting
25 Aug	SAL Membership Meeting 6:00 pm
28 Aug	Fish Fry 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
29 Aug	Inaugural ALR Post 209 Poker Run
3 Sep	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
4 Sep	Hamdogger Night 6:00 pm
11 Sep	ALR Dinner 6:00 pm
12 Sep	General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am
14 Sep	ALR Board Meeting 6:00pm
18 Sep	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
19 Sep	ALR Post 209 Monthly Ride: Bishop's Castle
22 Sep	ALR General Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Meeting
22 Sep	SAL Membership Meeting 6:00 pm
25 Sep	Fish Fry! 6:00 pm - <b>RSVP REQUIRED</b>
26 Sep	VFW End of Season Ride



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

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~ June 2015 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	5 Hamdogger 6 pm    	6 Falcon Freedom Poker Run ALR 2008 
7 Pikes Peak Fallen Officer Memorial Ride 	8	9	10	11	12 ALR Dinner Ribs and Chicken 6:00pm RSVP Required  	13 Membership Meeting Breakfast 9:00am Meeting 10:00am 
14 <b>Flag Day!</b> Flag Disposal Ceremony 1:00pm ALR Buena Vista Ride 9:00 am KSU 9:30 <b>Happy B'Day Army!</b>	15 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	16	17	18	19 Steak Night 6:00pm RSVP Required    	20
21	22	23 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	24	25-28 June Department Convention - Elegante Hotel 25-28 June		
				25 Convention Golf Tournament; PAFB	26 Fish Fry 6:00pm RSVP Required    	27 Inaugural ALR Legacy Ride 10:30am 
28 Convention 15th Annual Tejon Street Bike Fest 	29	30	1 July	2 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	3	4 July 4th Potluck Picnic 1:00 Flag Disposal Ceremony 12:30