

The Centennial



VOLUME 43 EDITION 6

June 2016

Mail: P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80936-5334

Post: 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, Co 80917-8002

Telephone 719-599-8624

Email: centennialtwozeronline@yahoo.com

Website: www.legion209.org



From the Desk and Mind of the Commander



As my tenure comes to an end and the passing over to others, I want to personally thank you for all of the knowledge, support, and words to help develop this Post. I have learned many things and have seen a direction for the future within the American Legion family. I met many new Veterans and their families, helped Veterans find the American Legion, and demonstrated with our membership how we support and help Veterans. It brought to light why we do what we do and how the needs in the future are clear for helping Veterans.

Positive vibes only, please

Over the last two years, I have seen teamwork and the sharing of ideas which has allowed the Post to grow to “the largest Post” in Colorado. Thank you to all. I know we challenge our members daily and weekly to continue sending our message and asking Veterans to join the American Legion. The benefits far outweigh the reasons or excuses to not join. It is time to share why we have become legionnaires. As a mentor said, if you believe in the 4 pillars, then you are in the right place and can tell others why they need to be members too.

American Legion...One nation, One team....

In the last month I have continued to see others want to get involved and lead. This is a feeling of success and a team that will continue to grow. Please find the time to congratulate those that have been elected; find the time to support them as they learn and grow; and find the time to share what you know so they can be successful in the American Legion family. Over the last week, I have seen the Department share their vision, the District become the example for others in the State, and the Post to welcome our National Commander to Colorado Springs. The Walk for Veterans was an amazing experience and a great time to listen to how the year has changed from Dale Barnett’s perspective. What a leader and mentor for others to see and model. During his time here it was exciting to hear how passionate he was for Veterans and their needs; it was interesting to see how he had gotten where he is in the American Legion; and it was a true time to be humbled.

As my tenure runs down, I am looking forward to riding the season with the Riders, sharing time in the community as riders, and to share the time with what the Riders can do for the communities. In supporting the installation of officers this week, I was able to see the incoming future leaders and their concepts for the year. The ideas and directions were exciting to hear. The upcoming rides allow a band of brothers and sisters to experience the beauty throughout Colorado, sharing of wind in your face, and time to tell the communities what we can do for them and their Veterans.

We don’t know them all, but we owe them all

In my last cover letter, I want to express to all of you that read this...I am proud to be a member of Post 209; I am proud to say that I belong to the American Legion family at Post 209; and I am proud that these years allowed me to grow and to come to know the American Legion through time, service, commitment, and attendance to the National American Legion College. In my next adventure, I look forward to telling others about the college; share the experiences with others, and to get this tool into the Department of Colorado. The State of Colorado is ready and deserves this for its members. There is more to come around the corner.

It may be the time to travel, but it also a time to remember where home is...

Neal Thomas, Jr-Centennial Post 209

**Thank you all for your support, service, and commitment to helping Veterans.
Veterans helping Veterans. Wear it with pride...to be continued...**



From the Unit 209 President
Jackie Bowen

Happy Birthday to the following: Becky Hall, Carol Jean, Jaye Larsen, Reylicia Martinez, Evelyn Muckelrath, Janice Marie Sanders, Sue Shuck, June Swearingen, Donna Testorff, Chryelle Wash, and Sydney Weaver.

May 7th we held our District 7 Convention at Post 209. You're new District Officers are as follows: President-Jackie Bowen, Vice President-Bettina Kossow, Secretary-Kellie Hayes, Treasurer-Lynn Thomas, Chaplain-Donna Testorff, Historian-Pat Weaver, Sgt-at-Arms-Becky Hall.

We joined with our Post Legionnaires and the Blue Star Mothers on May 1st and collected suits for our troops transitioning out of the military. As some of you may remember, it was a very cold snowy day. We collected 75 suits, 34 pants, 54 shirts, 19 jackets, 90 ties, 3 pair of shoes, 25 pair of socks, 4 belts, and women's clothing 13 pieces for a total of 317. Not bad for one day. As of this writing they have supplied 62 soldiers with appropriate clothing for the job fair they were attending. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all the folks that helped make this event successful.

Ladies, thank you all for the support you have given me this year. Unit 209 is moving UP and I know you will help Cathy keep moving "ON UP"! She is going to be a great President. We are indeed a SUPER Unit!

Still Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

From Becky Hall to our Juniors

Parents please bring all Juniors to the Root beer float party to start off our Juniors June 11th 2016. Meeting will start as soon as the General membership meeting ends. Please come and meet our Department President elect Evelyn Espinola and Junior members of the Post. RSVP by June 4th 2016 to <mailto:beckyrfowler@comcast.net>

2016 Membership Drive

Senior Vice Commander Lino Calica



It has been another exciting month. The membership drive has been *AWESOME*. We have met the department goal of 1000 members, and as of May 21, 2016, we are at 102%, at 1022 members. The Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209, is currently the number one American Legion Post in the State of Colorado. Let us continue to build our membership. Thank You all for your continuous support, hard work and dedication. Remember the 3R's:

RECRUIT- New members **RETAIN** - Existing Members, **REBUILD** - For the Future.

Mahalo nui loa, (*Thank you*)

THE ALR Dinner for June, 2016 is LASAGNA...Best in the area. Please join us and RSVP.



From the Adjutant
Marvin Weaver, Jr.

I am 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!!

Department Convention is coming up June 16 – 19 in Longmont. Our own Jay Bowen is running for Department Commander. We have quite a few topics to discuss at Convention, it will definitely be a busy and informative time. If you want to see what has been going on within the state this year make plans to attend. July 1st starts the new membership year and National will be mailing out renewal notices the last week of June. We do not send out the notices, they are all generated from National. Once we receive your payment we process your renewal to Department. Department processes the renewal and sends it to National. You can see that this takes some time and sometimes does not make it to National before the next round of mailings. One way to keep from getting multiple renewal notices is to send in your payment once you receive the notice.

Thanks for everything you have done to help our Post!



The Young Guns wrapped up NRA Marksmanship practice on May 18th, 2016. We had 10 very enthusiastic shooters working on qualifications for Pro Marksman, Marksman, Marksman 1st Class, Sharpshooter and Expert. NRA Marksmanship will resume on September 14th, 2016 which is the same date that the new shooter class begins. We are working on some summer events which have not been finalized, so stay tuned.

There is a new Junior Shooting class starting on September 14th 2016. The class is open to all youth ages 10 through 18 but is limited to 12 students. At this writing, there are 8 openings left. We meet on Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 PM for the 9 week course. The class is held at American Legion post 209, 3613 Jeannine Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917-8002. The cost of the course is \$25 and that is the only cost students will incur. We provide Air Rifles, Safety glasses, books and all related equipment. We have NRA Certified Instructors and NRA certified Range Safety officers. All Instructors have passed background checks per the American Legion for those working with youth. The class is open to all youth ages 10 through 18.



You can check us out on Facebook where there are pictures and a video. Just go to www.legion209.org and click on the Young Guns Icon that is on the lower left side of the Home Page.

Ken Taylor
Junior Shooting Chairman
719-761-4047 or email adjutantsal209@gmail.com.

THE ALR Dinner for June, 2016 is LASAGNA...Best in the area. Please join us and RSVP.

A Dying Gift of Love

SAL Squadron 209 was proud to have been given the opportunity to assist a Gulf War Veteran in need of a Power Wheel Chair. The chair had previously belonged to Mr. Clyde Womer, a WWII Veteran and beloved member of Post and Squadron 209. Clyde passed away on May 10, 2016 and one of his last requests was to pass his power chair on to another Veteran as soon as possible. The chair was picked up and delivered to Mr. Richard Warner of Fountain on May 19th, 2016 thus fulfilling one of Clyde's last wishes. Squadron 209 was extremely happy to be a part of this as it made it a very special Veterans Assistance Day.



Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com



**From the Jr. Vice Commander
Mike Barger**

Wow! It's amazing how fast this last year has flown by. It feels like just yesterday I was sworn in as Junior Vice Commander. A lot has been accomplished in this Post as it comes to membership. Legion membership has exceeded our goal once again, and we're still working on becoming the largest Post in the state. The Auxiliary has surpassed 100%. Amazing, since they really didn't have any numbers to work with to set a goal to and achieve it. Also, the SAL is still growing and at over 100%, and I see that continuing in the future. Riders have maintained, and that's all we can ask.

We continue to provide services for our Veterans in our community, and that's what we do as a Post. Our Service Officer has done an outstanding job, along with the VA Assistance day we do once a month. Without us dedicated folks, our Veterans in need would not have a place to go to help get assistance. It takes all hands on deck to keep this going, and I'm proud to be part of it.

Our club manager keeps this Post going with stepping up and providing meals on Friday nights, along with the Riders once a month. He also continues to rent this Post out to anyone looking to hold an event, to continue to bring in money for this Post. It's still a vision of mine to see if we can get this Post to be open more often, to provide a place for folks to come by and kick their shoes off and relax, and enjoy the company of other Veterans, but this will take members to step up and volunteer their time to make this happen.

We've got to continue to work together to keep this Post solvent and bring in more money so we can continue to assist our local Veterans. We need to take care of our Post first, and once that's been achieved, we can then go outside to help others. It's been something I've had instilled in me when I was growing up, help your family first and if there's anything left, help others. There will be times we have to say no, and it hurts us all if we have to say that, but the Post comes first, then anything left can go to others.

The Riders step up every year to collect food for the Thanksgiving holiday season to help Veterans in our community enjoy a meal with their family. Keep an eye out for that again this year. They continue to support the McCandless Veteran's Home in Florence with the annual Biker's Ball to collect money to support them, along with a BBQ in the summer and Christmas gifts at Christmas time. Also, they've stepped up to assist with the El Paso County Homeless Coalition, to assist with the Veteran's Stand Down along with assistance from other members of this Post. This will be taking place again this year on October 18th, so I hope to continue to see this Post assist with this.

It's been an honor serving as your Junior Vice Commander this past year and I'm looking forward to serving you as the next Post Commander.

Remember, there's Veterans out there that may need a little help, so when we're called on, let's continue to step up and show them why we're called family.

THE ALR Dinner for June, 2016 is LASAGNA...Best in the area. Please join us and RSVP.

HE'S A WINNER!

Adam Osterholzer applied for the American Legion Auxiliary Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship and was sponsored by Unit 209. He was awarded a \$2,500.00 scholarship. I might add that he was the only one from the state of Colorado to be awarded any of the scholarships from the National American Legion Auxiliary this year.

Who's next? If you want to learn more about this opportunity, contact Jackie Bowen.

CONGRATULATIONS ADAM!



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 2016.

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!

American Legion Riders

During my last motorcycle minute, we conversed about the love a one family in the midst of joy giving away their daughter as proud parents. In that same family comes the loss of their child Josh. We have seen him around the post and he touched many of us along the way. In an expression of love, our riders came together to escort our friend to his final destination. Our own pastor John Coppedge presided over the celebration of life ceremony.

Our reception was informal and everyone let Jim, Rene, and Leah know that our thoughts and prayers were with them. We are thankful that we got a chance to know Josh if only for a little while.

Our friend Thumper is currently, not feeling at his best. He has gone through a bad case of food poisoning which has affected some vital organs in his body. Our prayers are with him to get better and ride with us again.

Hawaiian night at the post was an incredible event. It was the highest turnout the post has ever had for a dinner. An incredible time was had by all. Hey Lino, thank all of your Hawaiian families for giving time talents and treasures for all of us. It is obvious that last year's appearance sparked a lot more excitement for this year.

I'd like to thank 5 Star Bank who personally invited some of our veterans to join them at the Blue Jeans and Brass Gala fundraiser. Rodeo supporters enjoyed a great night with great filet mignon dinners, live auctions, music and entertainment. All funds generated were donated to veteran families. The rodeo has a long and proud history of supporting our military in good times and bad. We are thankful for our cowboy friends. Be sure to have you friends and family support the rodeo as a volunteer or customer at the event. They are awesome folks.

On a personal note, I just wanted to express the joy my wife and I have in our hearts. Our little girl (over 30 years old) has waited to marry the love of her life. Doug is a great young man who will make a fine husband for my little girl. We will be there to watch the beginning of a beautiful new family flourish into this great country of ours. God Blessed the Gilbert Family with this wonderful ceremony of Love.

Andrew Gilbert, President



From The Commander Squadron 209

Rick Kettering

As we start a new membership year we now have the finally hit the 100 member mark. I am so proud of all the work everyone has done to reach this point. Just a reminder, the dues are \$20 for adults and \$10 for under 18 at the time of renewal or original signup. Please help get our renewals and new members. Remember to have your name on the new members application form for credit towards recruitment awards.

Our Squadron is doing well with the Five Star Program and as we get younger members I hope to get the 10 Ideals program running. With the successes of Post 209, our new CWF goal is probably around \$1500 again this year. We will keep everyone updated on the growth of the funds for the CWF. We are still collecting money for the Josh Dog Project and will be presenting more to Children's Hospital again soon.

I want to thank everyone that stepped up to fill all the officer slots. This is great that we have all positions filled. We are growing as a Squadron still looking for people to join. The Legion membership is now at a point that Post 209 is the largest Post in Colorado; Squadron 209 should be the largest in the Detachment. I will be looking to all to help our Squadron grow and accomplish great things this year.

For God and Country,



From the Historian

Eric Testorff

I graduated from North Kansas City High School in the '70s, too young to serve in the Vietnam War. My brothers were old enough however, and Tom entered the US Army. Another graduate of NKC, and contemporary of my older brothers, was Don Ballard. Vietnam was escalating, and Don chose to join the US Navy.

Don attended the Naval Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Il, before his first assignment to the Naval Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. He deployed to Vietnam in January of 1968, and reported for duty with Headquarters and Service Company, 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, 3d Marine Division. In his capacity as a Hospital Corpsman, he became known as "Doc" to the young Marines whom he treated and cared for.

As I write this, it is now the middle of May, and it makes me think of that important day in May nearly 50 years ago in the life of a fellow NKC grad. Don was in the thick of things in Quang Tri Province: the same wretched place where we would lose Tommy three years later. But on May 16th 1968, Don Ballard would perform a selfless act that would enter him into the annals of military honor, and for those of us from NKC, forever do us proud. A portion of the citation for his actions on that day reads as follows:

"After treating and evacuating 2 heat casualties, HC2c. Ballard was returning to his platoon from the evacuation landing zone when the company was ambushed by a North Vietnamese Army unit employing automatic weapons and mortars, and sustained numerous casualties. Observing a wounded marine, HC2c. Ballard unhesitatingly moved across the fire swept terrain to the injured man and swiftly rendered medical assistance to his comrade. HC2c. Ballard then directed 4 marines to carry the casualty to a position of relative safety. As the 4 men prepared to move the wounded marine, an enemy soldier suddenly left his concealed position and, after hurling a hand grenade which landed near the casualty, commenced firing upon the small group of men. Instantly shouting a warning to the marines, HC2c. Ballard fearlessly threw himself upon the lethal explosive device to protect his comrades from the deadly blast. When the grenade failed to detonate, he calmly arose from his dangerous position and resolutely continued his determined efforts in treating other marines..."

Don would later receive the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions of that day. He left the Navy, and would enter the US Army National Guard, where he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps. He was promoted to colonel in 1998 and retired in 2000. In addition to his reserve duty, Col. Ballard worked as a medical technician with the fire department in Kansas City, Missouri.

Thank you, Don Ballard, for the honor you bring to us all, and for a life of service to our military members and fellow citizens.





National Commander's Visit!

National Commander Dale Barnett visited Colorado in May. One of the stops along the way was at Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209. He is the 7th National Commander to visit Post 209. Commander Barnett's theme this year to do conduct an Awareness Walk wherever he visits, so we took him to the one place that epitomizes Colorado Springs; Garden of The Gods.

There were about 50 Legionnaires, SAL, Riders, and Auxiliary members from across District 7 and the Department, as well as civilians visiting the Park who took part in the Walk For Veterans on 23 May.

Commander Barnett conducts these walks to bring awareness to the issues facing our Veterans, such as VA health care and suicides of Veterans at about 22 per day around the country.



We were accompanied along the walk by Ellie from the Colorado Springs Gazette. Maybe you caught her article in the Wednesday, 25 May edition or the online version from the day before. If not, you can get a copy from the Gazette website. She did a great job capturing the nature of the walk.

During the walk, the Commander shared with us how excited he was to find out we planned to take him to the Garden of the Gods. He said on a previous visit he could see it from the road and REALLY wanted to visit, but just didn't have time. He told me he wants to come back and spend more time in the Park.

After the walk, the Commander joined us for dinner at Post 209. It was a great turnout for the dinner.

Thanks for the visit Commander Barnett. Please come back and enjoy more southern Colorado hospitality.



FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK Pastor Stan

Your newly installed officers will take office as of July 1, 2016. It was good to see some new faces elected this year. This is my last article and I have enjoyed writing these articles to you and I hope that some of it made sense to you. I know that Paul Darrow will do a great job as your new Post Chaplain. I have worked with him before and he is a good and honest man.

Isaiah 58:11 says, "The Lord will always lead you. HE will satisfy your needs in dry lands and give strength to your bones. You will be like a garden that has much water, like a spring that never runs dry." My last article to you from Max Lucado is, "About GOD'S Guidance." You've been there. You've escaped the sandy foundations of the valley and ascended his grand outcropping of granite. You've turned your back on the noise and sought his voice. You've stepped away from the masses and followed the Master as HE led you up the winding path to the summit. Gently, your guide invites you to sit on the rock above the tree line and look out with him at the ancient peaks that will never erode. "What is necessary is still what is sure," he confides. "Just remember, you'll go nowhere tomorrow that I haven't already been." Truth will still triumph---the victory is yours----the sacred summit. A place of permanence in a world of transition. The prayer: "Father, we invite you to be our guide through life. We surrender our lives to you. We welcome your Holy guidance. AMEN!"

My last three words are: **GO TO CHURCH!**

Shalom!



From the Sergeant-at-Arms “Sgt. Ski”

Post 209 Patriots,

When folks ask me who I am at Post 209...I proudly say I am the sentinel, the tiler, the outer guard of the best Legion Post in Colorado. I especially guard against the loss of one of the American Legion's greatest possessions; our deep and abiding spirit of comradeship. I am your Wingman! I take the lead on the "Welcoming Committee" and I am charged with learning the identity of and introducing to the Commander all visiting comrades and guests to Post 209. I am directly responsible for ensuring that no one shall remain a stranger in our midst. Prepare yourself to receive a strong handshake or a gentle hug at any given time. I am your Wingman! I am ready at all times to assist the Post Commander. Into my hands is given charge of the "Stand of Colors" which I will have properly displayed at all Post 209 meetings and on ceremonial occasions. I am your Wingman! This is my duty...my responsibility! I am proud to be an American in the "Profession of Arms" representing Post 209, the Air National Guard and an active senior enlisted member of the United States Air Force. I follow a distinguished and long line of Sergeant-at-Arms and will uphold the traditions set forth by my predecessors to the best of my abilities here at Post 209. Yes...I am your Wingman!

Thank you very much for allowing me to be and to do so!

I am extremely humbled and honored.



From the Judge Advocate Chuck Zeitvogel

Sharing Thoughts

Register to Vote. Over the years we have heard about the importance of registering to vote. Well this one hit me square in the face this past month when I asked a couple, moving to a foreign country where they will be teachers, if they would be registering for absentee ballots. Their answer, *“No - what difference does it make?”* shocked me and was like they had no concept of the importance of voting – college educated and set in their ways. Where have these people been that they believe their vote is not important? Voting and vote counting is truly important, just look at what’s happened recently with a number of aspirers wanting to be elected to the US Senate. Many are petitioning in the various districts to get on the ballot, and coming up short in several Districts, and suing with challenges going to Colorado’s Supreme Court, challenging for ballot recounts and exceptions to have their names on the fall ballot. That scenario is still being played out as I’m writing this. So how about it - are you who read this registered to vote? Do what you can to get the word out to those people in your circle of influence who are eligible to vote – ask them to get register to vote and when the time comes to actually vote in local, state, and national elections for issues on the ballot. And, it goes without saying we all need to become as informed as possible about the issues.

Leadership & Challenges - Post 209. Over the years Post 209 has been fortunate to have had excellent leadership resulting in a growing membership and programs and services as indicated in this and previous newsletters. Happily, we are somewhat like a “Three Ring Circus” and a family affair with something for everyone wishing to participate. Just read this and past newsletters.

From my perspective - cash-flow is the challenge. Nothing new here, as nearly every organization, non-profit or for profit, has the same challenge of maintaining a positive cash flow otherwise, sooner or later they are out of business. The Executive Committee is working the challenge. But the membership also needs to be aware and what’s at stake. We need ongoing fundraising to adequately fund maintenance of the Post Home and related expenses. Ask about them at meetings. Offer your ideas for fundraising.

Be a turtle – stick your head out, speak-up, get involved! It has been my pleasure to serve this past year as your Post Judge Advocate.



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.

Bringing a Little South to the West

By Immediate Past Commander Jay Bowen

I got a call the other day from Bubba. For the benefit of those who are new to this little monthly sharing of stories, Bubba is my older brother by one year. His real name is Eddie, but I haven't called him by that name for as long as I can remember. Bubba is the consummate redneck. If you looked that word up in the Dictionary, his picture would be proudly displayed, white beard, white hair (what's left of it anyway), coveralls and all. He'd have a cigarette in one hand and a can of Miller Lite in the other (by the way, he had a triple bypass about three years ago).

Anyway, he called and we were making casual conversation and toward the end he stated, "Well, I gotta go get ready. A big storm is headed this way." Now, in Tennessee a big storm this time of year usually means rain, lightning, thunder, and a tornado or two somewhere in the county. I jokingly replied, "So, you got your lawn chair set up for a good view?" Without any hesitation he said, "Yeah, with the direction this one's coming from, I'm gonna have to move it a little ways from the garage so I can see better." He wasn't kidding.

Now most of you folks that haven't really lived in an area that is no stranger to Tornados probably don't understand the logic behind the lawn chair and a 6-pack of beer. This time of year in the South is getting pretty humid and hot. When this type of storm comes along, just prior to the hail and heavy rain, sometimes followed by that little funnel cloud, the weather cools down and a breeze begins to blow. That makes for a very nice break from the heat. They don't really sit out there watching the Tornado hit the ground unless it looks like it's going away from them. If it's coming their way, they find a good place to go just before the hail begins to hit. Most of them have a storm cellar, kept stocked with canned goods and portable radio to ride out the storm and keep track of where it's going. They don't really have an "All Clear" signal in the country, so you need the radio to find out when the Tornado leaves the county. Most of the time, it's there and gone in a matter of seconds. As long as another one isn't right behind it, you can climb out of the cellar and set up the chair to get the after-breeze. That's almost as refreshing.

What's really always frustrated me about the after-effects (other than the obvious losses) is the news reporters that rush out in the aftermath. It never fails they find the most illiterate person in the entire county to interview. And it's always the same thing, "Yup, I saw it. Tetched down right by me. Sounded like a freight train comin' through. Tored up my henhouse and now I got chickens scattered across 3 counties. And them that didn't blow away won't lay for a month." Truth be told, most of those folks never heard a freight train except in a song. And they only had 3 or 4 chickens. The news media never finds the southerner that teaches school to interview. Nope, they look for the overalls and missing teeth, with the baseball cap on backwards.

Oh well, I guess if they ever interview Bubba he'll be one of those that says, "Yep, sounded like a big ole freight train rollin' through the area. Blowed my chickens half-way to hell. If it weren't for my Storm Cellar, I guess I'd be with them chickens somewhere in the next county." Bubba has never heard a freight train and he's never owned any chickens. He has 3 dogs, and about half-dozen cats. The dogs are a lot like him, they would just sit and watch the storm come through. The cats however, would have been long gone and hunkered down somewhere safe.

Jennifer K. Yancey
Independent Beauty Consultant

(719) 694-8242
(914) 382-5006
jyancey1@marykay.com
www.marykay.com/jyancey1
Discover What You Love™



Thank You to Our Sponsors!

We are adding something new to *The Centennial* Newsletter. If you know of a business or have one you would like to advertise in our newsletter, get with our Post Adjutant, Marvin Weaver, Jr. He will work with you on pricing and requirements to get your name and business card out there. Advertising in this Newsletter does not mean we recommend the business; we are merely offering sponsors/supporters a venue for advertising.



Post Officers 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Stan Hamamoto	719-322-6959
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-556-8326
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Post Exec. Cmtee	Jay Bowen	901-484-7193
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Jeremy Boltjes	218-831-0475



ALR Officers 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Secretary	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Grady Mitchell	



Auxiliary Officers 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Joan Ciani	719-579-9194
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-3193



Sons of The American Legion 2015-2016

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Sr. Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Commander	Ronny Ross	719-493-2583
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
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

See Back Page for June 2016 Calendar

July 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Canada Day	2
					Handdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order.	
3	4 Happy Independence Day! Post 209 Potluck Picnic 1200 Hrs.	5	6	7 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	8 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	9 Membership Meeting Cancelled for July!
10	11	12	13	14	15 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	16 ALR Ride
17	18 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm	19 \$10.50 Meal National Jr. Shooting Competitors' Dinner Post 209; 1830 hours	20	21	22 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFSI - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	23 National Jr. Shooting Competition; Olympic Training Center
24	25	26 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm	27	28	29	30
31	Notes: CFS is Chicken Fried Steak					

August 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	Handdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order.	
7 International Friendship Day	8	9	10	11	12 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	13 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am
14	15 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm	16	17	18	19 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	20
21	22	23 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm	24	25	26 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFSI - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	27
28	29	30	31	Notes: CFS is Chicken Fried Steak		

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com



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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLORADO SPGS, CO
PERMIT NO. 192

Current Resident or,

~ June 2016 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CFS is Chicken Fried Steak Choice of Fish or Chicken Fried Steak on 27 May Steak Night is cancelled in June due to the Annual Convention.			1	2 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	3 Hamdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order. 	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	11 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am ALR Ride Deckers/Aspen 
12	13	14 Flag Day US Army Birthday! 	15	16 Department of Colorado Annual Convention Longmont, CO 	17 Department of Colorado Annual Convention Longmont, CO 	18 Department of Colorado Annual Convention Longmont, CO 
19 Father's Day Department of Colorado Annual Convention Longmont, CO 	20 Summer Solstice ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	21	22	23	24 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFS! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	25
26	27	28 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm 	29	30	Notes:	

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com