



Centennial Post 209

P.O. Box 15461
Colorado Springs, CO 80935

JUNE 1986

Legionnaires

Believe it or not I am still Post Commander of Centennial Post 209. The elected Commander was unable to assume the office at this time therefore in accordance with our Constitution and by-laws the present Commander remains in office. I therefore resigned the elected office and remained Commander for another year. I then recruited a new Adjutant George A. Wood to fill my vacated, elected position. After all of the juggling had taken place we then proceeded to get things back on track.

I wish to thank all of you for your splendid support over the past year and earnestly request your continued support in the year. I also wish to thank those of you who were able to attend the Installation Dinner and Ceremony. It was indeed a beautiful occasion and if you missed it you missed a real treat.

Now that we are into a new year let's not look back and pat ourselves on the back for a job well done. Rather, combine our efforts in a United front in an endeavor to secure a POST HOME. Securing a post home is my one goal for the coming Legion year.

In an effort to attain this goal, I am asking the the full support of each and every Legion and Auxiliary Member of Post 209.

We will shortly be circulating a questionnaire among our membership seeking to know what area of expertise you would like to offer the post to make our endeavor a success. I fully realize that not everyone is equally talented therefore I do not expect everyone to work Bingo or sell raffle tickets. But, everyone is capable of doing something that will help.

On 27 June 86 the Department of Colorado annual Convention will convene at Arvada Colorado. I will be vying once again for the position of Jr. Vice Commander for the Department. If you are able to attend this function I would greatly appreciate seeing some friendly faces from 209 present. The conclusion of the Annual Department Convention marks the end of the present Legion year and the start of a new Legion year complete with new dues due and payable. Let's gear up to make this a banner year for Centennial Post 209.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
NEAL L. THOMAS
Commander

POLICY ON LIBYA SET AT 1983 CONVENTION

Indianapolis (ALNS) - As early as 1983, the American Legion was sounding the alarm over the threat of the Regime of Moammar Khadafy in Libya to peace and harmony in the world. In the tradition of the Nation's largest veterans organization - The first to label Adolph Hitler the enemy of peace, the first to denounce Joseph Stalin as the foe of freedom - delegates to the 65th (1983) National Convention, Seattle, Wash., referred to Khadafy as "this strident, megalomaniacal little man" who "poses a real threat to the peace and tranquility of North Africa and the middle east and indirectly to the free world." In adopting Resolution No. 425, a general policy statement on Libya for the American Legion. The convention delegates called for continued U.S. vigilance toward Libya and for the nation to be prepared "to resist promptly and effectively any evet actions or outright attacks against the United States or its allies on the part of Libya."

AIR STRIKE OF LIBYA DRAWS LEGION SUPPORT

Washington (ALNS) - The American Legion responded swiftly and unequivocally to support President Reagan's order for an air strike against Libya military targets in retaliation for terrorist activity which resulted in the death of an American serviceman and the injury of many civilians in a Weat Berlin night club. In a Telegram April 15 to the President, National Commander Dale L. Renaud said "the American Legion strongly supports your forthright action to counter terrirism and retaliate swiftly and decisively against perpetrators of Terrorist acts. The American Legion pledges its support to any action you deem necessary to try to solve this deliberate, unfortunate, and unexcusable terrorist situation.

"We sincerely hope that actions taken yesterday by the Armed Forces of the United States will convince those who attack innocent civilians of the swift, sure, and just response they will suffer. "We urge the U.S. Government to continue its vigilance to resist promptly and effectively any terrorist attacks against the United States or our allies."

Renaud's message of support was in conformance with American Legion position established through National Convention action. Delegates to the 67th (1985) National Convention in New Orleans adopted Resolution No. 178 - "Terrorism" - which gives Legion support to "initiatives taken by the President and urges the U.S. government carry through by assigning the highest priority to combatting terrorism and to retaliate swiftly and decisively against perpetrators of terrorist acts." The resolution also expressed the legions support for any action of the President which "he may deem necessary" to resolve the terrorist situation.

VA SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

The Small Business Administration says one of its most misunderstood programs is the direct loan for Vietnam era and disabled veterans. The loan program is a pool of money set aside to insure that there will be money to lend veterans even after other SBA funds are exhausted or the bands won't make money available to qualified loan applicants for reasons like overdue payback (the average SBA loan is nine years), or too little money for the length of the loan.

A veteran wishing to apply for an SBA loan should have a good business plan and show that the loan will be as secure as reasonable to assure repayment. Available collateral and other guarantees will be required. Veterans loans must meet the same criteria as regular business loans and can only be made if a guaranteed loan or other credit is not available.

VA OFFICIAL DEBUNKS DISMANTLEMENT FEAR

Indianapolis (ALNS) - The cries about "threats of dismantling the VA" just "don't make any sense," Deputy VA administrator Everett Alvarez, Jr has told the National Executive Committee of the American Legion.

In a speech to the NEC just before his May 10 resignation, Alvarez debunked the warnings of impending doom of the VA pointing to the services and care provided by the veterans administration.

He encouraged the Legion leaders to "look at things in reality" and to continue to "provide guidance to the Veterans Administration and to Administration." Alvarez declared that the concept of a veterans administration system "has the support of the President, the congress, and the people."

At the time, he said that the VA has been far too slow to adopt efficiencies as has the private sector and that the VA "has to do a better job of managing changes.

"Gramm-Rudman (balanced budget legislation) can be a convenient excuse for inaction." Alvarez said, and that in such an environment, budgets must be justified much more than in the past.

"This is a time for innovation," he stated, "especially in Legion programs. The American Legion's traditional role will be more crucial, such as in its efforts to put pressure on the Administration." Alvarez said, "We all must go forward and face the challenges which may affect veterans' rights and benefits. But since when are Americans veterans not up to a challenge?"

Describing the Legion as "a worthy adversary," Alvarez said "We may have differed about how things should be done. But we have never disagreed on the ends."

He said that he has been "Truly fortunate to have been able to have served in such an enviable position and the satisfaction I have is immeasurable."

AUXILIARY CORNER

Hi Ladies

After the wonderful gathering and the Installation Ceremony last month I am excited about our next meeting. So many of you have decided to join our unit and have pledged to work toward making it the best little Auxiliary in Colorado. Those of you who were not there, we need your support also. We are planning exciting things for the July 86 thru June 87 calendar year and need each ladies expertise, whether your contribution be from your own home or another local. Remember the 3rd Thursday at 7 P.M. Bring your husband with you and lets be "a unit, under God, Fulfilling a Commitment!"

JUNE THOMAS
President

FROM THE DISTRICT COMMANDER

On 25 May 1986, District 7 of the American Legion held elections and the following were elected.

District Commander	Larry Johnson Post 209
Sr Vice Commander	Bill Kane Post 38
Jr Vice Commander	Gene Bowman Post 5
Adjutant	Gene Portis Post 5
Asst Adjutant	D.H. (Jim) Chandler Post 38
Chaplain	Harry Andrews Post 5
Finance Officer	Art B. Akell Post 13
Historiam	Vacant
Sgt-at-Arms	Tom Bender Post 209
National Exec Committee Mbr	Jerry Madden Post 5

Goals for upcoming year: Getting the Post withen the district talking and participating to get District 7 the best district in the State of Colorado. To get membership to to an all time high.

Membership Application

\$ _____ Dues

Record of Payment of Dues
The American Legion

Date _____ 19____

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

Dues Received By: NEW Member () Renewal () Reinstatement ()

Fill out this section completely for new members

(Date of Enlistment) (Branch of Service) (Service Serial No.)

(Date of Separation) (Character of Separation) (Date of Birth)

Social Security Number _____

Occupation _____ Blood Type _____ Can you donate? _____

I do not subscribe to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government. I certify that I did not refuse on conscientious, political, or other grounds to subject myself to military discipline or unqualified service during the period I was in the Armed Forces of the United States.

(Signature of Applicant for Membership)

(This form together with dues should be delivered promptly to Post Adjutant or Post Finance Officer.)



Are You Eligible?

If you served honorably on active duty in the U.S. Military for at least one day during any of the following periods, you are eligible.

WWI April 6, 1917–November 11, 1918
WWII December 7, 1941–December 31, 1946
Korea June 25, 1950–January 31, 1955
Vietnam December 22, 1961–May 7, 1975

YES, I WANT TO GET INVOLVED!

Complete the membership application below, contact any Legion member, or visit or call the Legion Post in your neighborhood, (check local directory) or write or call our National Headquarters today.

RECEIPT (Issue on receipt of dues)

Received of _____

\$ _____ in payment of dues for 19____ in Post No. _____

Date _____ 19____

By _____

Your official American Legion membership card will be forwarded to you promptly by your Post Adjutant.