

# The Centennial

VOLUME IX EDITION 6

JUNE 2019



## AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917  
719-599-8624

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.LEGION.209.ORG](http://WWW.LEGION.209.ORG)

### MEET YOUR 2019 - 2020 OFFICERS!!

#### 2019-2020 American Legion Post 209 Officers

**Commander:** Lino Calica

**Sr. Vice Commander:** Joseph Schmidt

**Jr. Vice Commander:** Desiree Guerra

**Adjutant:** Jerry Hopper

**Treasurer:** Mike Barger

**Chaplain:** Stan Hamamoto

**Historian:** Mike Wescott

**Sgt At Arms:** Sarah Tobin

**Executive Committeeman:** Marvin Weaver Jr.

**Judge Advocate:** Marvin Weaver Sr.

**Service Officer:** Art Carter

**Building Manager:** Art Kimbrel

#### 2019-2020 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

**President:** Cathy Barger

**Vice President:** Donna Testorff

**Secretary:** Pat Weaver

**Treasurer:** Kellie Hayes

**Sgt At Arms:** Kris Floyd

**Chaplain:** Madelyne "Hooty" Newborn

**Historian:** Royce Hopper

#### 2019-2020 Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

**Commander:** Eric Testorff

**Sr. Vice Commander:** Michael Wescott

**Jr. Vice Commander:** Richard Pecoraro

**Adjutant:** Ken Taylor

**Chaplain:** Steve Cox

**Historian:** Evan Schwartzbart

**Sgt At Arms:** Bob Ingram

**Immediate Past Commander:** Stan Krazinski

#### 2019-2020 American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

**President:** Steve Hayes

**Vice President:** Tim McDowell

**Secretary:** Cathy Barger

**Treasurer:** Kellie Hayes

**Road Captain:** John Hanchek

**Sgt At Arms:** Mark Griffin

**Pastor:** John Coppedge

**Communications:** Wade Newborn

**Historian:** Andrew Pearson

**Logistics:** Mike Sylvester

*For God & Country...*



*We associate ourselves together...*

## **FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER**

On May 11, 2019 we installed the newly elected officers from each of the programs. I would like to thank the following officers for taking time out of their busy schedule to install all the Post officers; Chip Kossow, Department JV Commander, Jackie Bowen Unit 209, Executive at Large and Rick Kettering, Past Squadron Commander. I am deeply humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to serve a second term as your Post Commander, I will continue to do my very best to serve the American Legion family and community to the best of my ability, with your assistance and guidance I know I will succeed and not fail.

This past year has been very exciting, fun, enjoyable and challenging. It is one of the best learning experiences I have ever had; it also showed me what my weakness and strengths were and where I need to improve. I would not have completed my tasks as Commander, without your support, guidance of the past leadership and most of all you the members. For the past few months, visitors as well as members has been inquiring about our programs at the Post, and what are we doing that is making our programs successful? The leaders and members in each of their programs, we work together to ensure that everything is running smoothly, however, when we hit a speed bump, we all pull together and do our best to assist in getting the job done.

If you are a new member, a transfer from another Post or renewed your membership, I would like to welcome you and your family to Neal Thomas Jr. Post 209. I want to thank all of you for the outstanding job in working the membership program. As of May 15, 2019, we have reached and achieved the Departments membership target goal of 1065 members. Our membership is now at 100%. We could have not made it, without your hard work and dedication. Great Job everyone.

Upcoming events: The Department of Colorado American Legion 100th year convention will be held at Hotel Elegante on South Circle Dr. from June 20th through June 23rd, 2019. If you have never been to a department convention, stop by to see how the different programs runs during the convention. Also, on June 21, our Auxiliary Unit 209 will be hosting the Auxiliary Dinner and Awards ceremony at our Post. I would like to ask for some volunteers from the Legion, SAL and Legion Riders in assisting me in setting up, preparing, serving and cleanup for that event. We need these Auxiliary ladies to enjoy their dinner and awards ceremony. I will be going around and asking for volunteers for that. Thank you in advance.

On July 4th, we will be conducting a Flag Disposal ceremony to properly retire a worn or tattered flag that has been displayed in the community at the Post. Post 209 Color Guards will present the Colors of the Nation; the Flag Disposal ceremony will start at 11:30 am, if you have not been to a ceremony, you will be amazed. I am hoping that boys and girls scouting will be able to participate. Following the event, we will be gathering for a potluck picnic, greet and interact with veterans from the community, members from the post.

*Lino Calica*  
Post Commander

S.A.L.T. – Serving and Learning Together





## FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

The Consolidated Post Report (Annual Report) has been submitted and I can tell you that we continue to do a lot to help out our fellow Vets, our community and our children. Keep up the good work!! We have met our membership quota for 2019 as well; thanks to all of you. We still have more to do before the year is over and Department Convention is coming up.

Department Convention will be June 20 – 23 at the Hotel Elegante here in Colorado Springs. 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 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.

Thank you for the trust you have put in me the past 5 years our new Adjutant Jerry Hooper will continue the work for the Post, and I will still be around to help him and the Post. Thanks for everything you have done to help our Post!

*Marvin Weaver Jr.*  
Post Adjutant



## FROM THE DESK OF THE SR VICE COMMANDER

A new memorial wall was unveiled at Balcon Park in Falcon, Colorado, on May 11th, 2019. Area Gold Star Wives and Gold Star Mothers teamed up with our good friends from American Legion Dane R. Balcon Post 2008, Falcon, to make this event possible. The wall is made up of bricks, each bearing the name of a service member who has paid the ultimate price for their country. There are 53 bricks in all, one for each military service member. These are folks who have some connection to the Falcon or Colorado Springs area.

The first brick in place, of course, is in honor of Dane R. Balcon, killed in Iraq in 2007, and the namesake of Balcon Park and American Legion Post 2008.



Other names of note to Post 209 members, are SPC Rob Nichols, a Post 209 member and the son of Bob and Donna Ribisi; RD3 Larry R. Smith, husband of Donna Rae Smith; PV2 Nolan E. Stites, son of Richard and Marilyn Stites; SP4 James E. Kinnard, husband of Chris Kinnard; and SP4 Thomas E. Testorff, my older brother Tom.

Special thanks to the members of American Legion Post 2008 for making this special day happen. Post 2008's own Stuart Anderson opened and closed the ceremonies. The Falcon High School JROTC Color Guard posted the Colors, and master of ceremonies Chip Kossow, along with his wife Bettina and the ladies of Auxiliary 2008, facilitated the event.

Many, many thanks go to all who participated in this event. It is a very special thing to remember our fallen heroes, and to show such love to the families they left behind.

*Eric Testorff*  
Post Sr. Vice Commander





## FROM THE DESK OF THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

Good day American Legion family, I would like to start this offering by expressing my sincere gratitude for your support and tolerance over the past year or three. I have enjoyed, mostly, all my experiences being a part of the leadership team here at Post 209 as your past Sergeant at Arms and JVC. Nevertheless, it is time for me to move on and to reassert my focus, attention and efforts onto my most important tasks at hand.

The newly elected and seated Legion Post 209 leadership team needs everyone's support, attendance and prayers as they move forward. I, once again, would like to challenge all able members of the Post to get involved...somehow...somewhere! As a Veteran, find a place where you

can be of assistance to another Veteran...and then show up!

To the newly elected and seated Legion Post 209 leadership team I offer these three thoughts from Mr. Colin Powell. This American statesman is a retired four-star general in the United States Army. During his military career Mr. Powell also served as National Security Advisor (1987–1989), as Commander of the U.S. Army Forces Command (1989) and as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1989–1993). Colin Powell was the first, and so far, the only Jamaican American to serve on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was the 65th United States Secretary of State, serving under U.S. President George W. Bush from 2001 to 2005, the only African American to serve in that position.

#1: "Treat people kindly. When you are kind to somebody and I don't mean necessarily buddy-buddy, just show kindness and consideration. Show that people are worthy, and you respect them, and you are glad they're with you." – Colin Powell

#2: "You can't get it all done yourself. The best leaders are not afraid of picking people who are better than they are and who may one day replace them." – Colin Powell

#3: "Trust is the essence of Leadership." – Colin Powell

Also, please view his "A Leadership Primer" @ <https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=467329>

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic Veterans service organization devoted to mutual helpfulness!

*Stanley "Sgt Ski" Krasinski*  
Post Jr. Vice Commander



## Did you know??

The first "Flag Code" was drafted during a Legion conference in Washington in 1923. Congress adopted the code in 1942. Today, The American Legion is at the forefront of efforts to pass a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. flag from physical desecration.

**The American Legion at the front lines for Old Glory!!**



## FROM THE DESK OF THE POST HISTORIAN

Colorado Post 209 Past Events Apr 15 thru May 14-2019

**Apr 20:** We held an American Legion "Post Everlasting" ceremony and Memorial Service at 1500 to Honor the Memory of Millicent `Millie` Young. Millie was a pioneering "WWII Women`s Army Service Pilot", or WASP and longtime member of Post 209.

**Apr 27:** Healing Warriors - A program utilizing acupuncture, craniosacral therapy and healing touch. They are at Post 209 every 4th Saturday from 9 to 1. They see their last client at 12:30. They treat Veterans, Veterans` spouses and children at NO COST.

Donations are appreciated. Walk-ins are welcome or you can make an appointment

**APR 28:** The Blue Star Mothers collected "Suits for Troops", from 1300 to 1600. Collected items were men`s and women`s suits and other business attire, for the soldiers transitioning out of the military to help dress for interviews. These suits will be taken to Ft Carson for dissemination later in May (TBD). Some Volunteers are: Caroline Robinson, Linda Coughlin-Brooks, and Kathy Sharp.

**May 02:** During the Post Executive Board an Election was to fill an unexpected Post Finance Officer Position and Mike Barger was Unanimously Voted to Serve 2019-2020 Term.

**May 11:** The Post General Membership Meeting was cancelled.

Post Installations started at 1700 were held for the upcoming year 2019-2020 and were followed by Dinner at 1800. Presiding Officer was Chip Kossow and the Installed Officers were:

Commander-Lino Calica, Sr. Vice-Joseph Schmidt, Jr. Vice-Desiree Guerra, Adjutant-Jerry Hopper, Finance Officer-Mike Barger, Chaplain-Stan Hamamoto, Sgt-At-Arms-Sarah Tobin, Historian-Mike Wescott, Exec Committeeman-Marvin Weaver Jr.

Pictures of the events can be found on <http://Legion209.org>

If you have any pictures you would like to share for our 2018-19 yearbook, please send them to me:

EMAIL:[ajcarter209@comcast.net](mailto:ajcarter209@comcast.net)

TEXT: (603)913-3261

Please indicate what the event or occasion is, when, and who is in the picture(s).

*AJ Carter*  
Post Historian



## FROM THE DESK OF THE SAL COMMANDER



Good day American Legion family and SAL members, Again, I would like to start this offering by expressing my sincere gratitude for your support and tolerance over this past year as your Squadron 209 Commander. We have achieved some wonderful things over the past year. We have surpassed our donation goals, visited Laurel Manor a couple times to celebrate the new Veterans there, sponsored a couple youths to Boys and Girls State this summer, etc.

Importantly we have managed to keep operations costs low allowing us, as a Squadron, to have a greater impact within our reach. For this, I thank each and every member of Squadron 209. We have filled all our leadership positions with new selectees to take the Squadron into and through the next year and I`m positive they will do a fine job.

Stanten (Past Sergeant at Arms), Shelten (Past Chaplain) and myself would like to encourage all able members of the Squadron to get involved...somehow...somewhere!

Founded in 1932, the Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires.

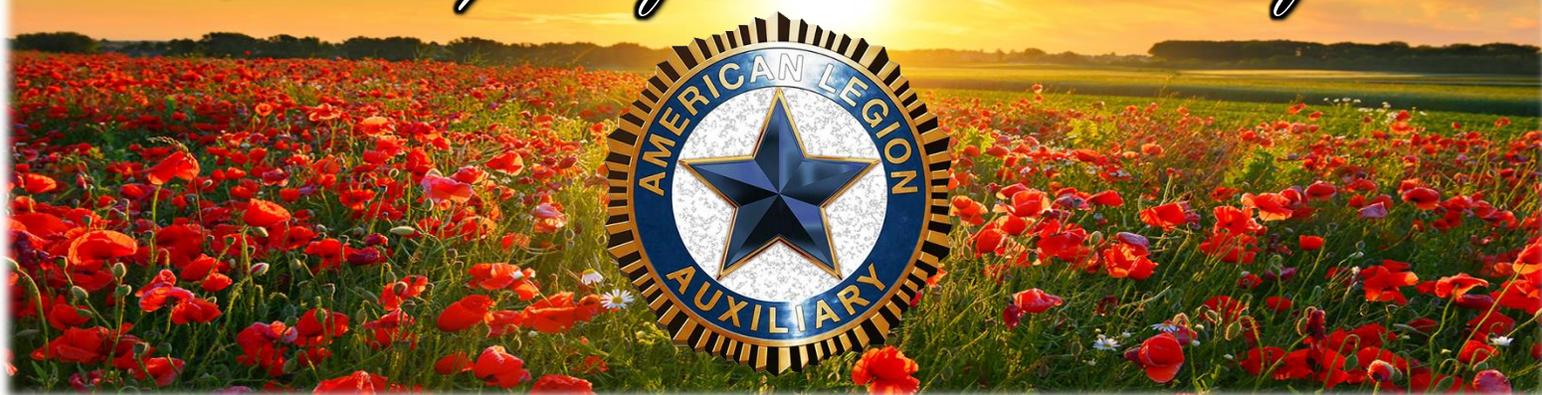
Please visit the Sons of The American Legion website and view all the current stories at <https://www.legion.org/sons>

*We can only make a difference if we are involved... participants not spectators.*

*Stanley "Sgt Ski" Krasinski*  
Squadron Commander



*In the Spirit of Service and Not Self...*



**FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT 209 PRESIDENT**

Ladies, again thank you all for the support you have given me this year, I appreciate you putting your trust in me to lead this remarkable Auxiliary Unit. The year has been a busy one, and I look forward to working alongside you all this coming year. Thank you to all the ladies that stepped up to serve in an officer position!!

It was an excellent turnout for the Dinner and Installation of the Post/Unit 209 Officers for the Legion/Auxiliary Officers on May 11, 2019. Our next meeting is on June 8, 2019, at 10 am. Plan on coming down and enjoy a warm breakfast before the meeting starts. Breakfast begins at 9 am. Just a reminder that our Post/Unit will be the host Post for the Department of Colorado Convention on June 20 - 23, 2019 at the Hotel Elegante.

Don't forget the Healing Warriors are at the Post every fourth Saturday of each month, from 9 am to 1 pm; they see their client at 12:30 pm. They treat Veterans, their spouses and children at no cost, donations are welcome.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 11, 2019, from 1 pm to 2 pm is the scheduled date and time for the Annual Ice Cream Social at McCandless in Florence.

Make sure to read the newsletter and our website: [Legion209.org](http://Legion209.org) for more information on upcoming events and dinners.

Happy Birthday to the following: Dominique Attarian, Katherine Barger, Deborah Cartwright, Amber Flores, Becky Hall, Becky Ingram, Carol Jean, Jaye Larsen, Evelyn Muckelrath, Katie Rose, Sue Shuck, Donna Testorff, Cheryle Wash, Morgan Manscoe, Reylicia Martinez, McKenna Newman, and Sydney Weaver.

*Still Serving Our Veterans Proudly!!*

*Cathy Barger*  
Unit President



**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 209 HAPPENINGS**

**POST 209 RIDERS WILL BE HOSTING JUNE'S DINNER  
COST: \$10.00 PER PERSON  
COME AND SUPPORT POST 209 ALR!!**



**RSVP: JACKIE BOWEN**

CALL: 719-574-1223

EMAIL: [JACKIEBOWEN2005@YAHOO.COM](mailto:JACKIEBOWEN2005@YAHOO.COM)



## BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

I recently had a conversation with someone about jobs we've had over the years. I stated that I have never been fired from a job in my entire life. It dawned on me that statement may not be 100% true. I've been fired from one job (I think), and it wasn't even my fault.

I believe I was 16 and a sophomore in High School. Bubba (brother Eddie) was 17 and a Junior at the same school. We've both worked since even before we had a driver's license. It was either as paper boys, or mowing lawns, etc. After we got our license, we were able to open the horizon a little and get other, more meaningful (read that as higher paying) jobs.

I've been blessed that when I found work, I typically stayed with the company a while. This was not the norm for most of my friends and for Bubba. It seemed he was looking for a new job about every 30 days. I think it was because he had a short temper and even shorter attention span.

This was especially true on one occasion, where I helped him get a job working at the same place where I had worked for about 6 months; Giant Food Store. It was a grocery chain in Memphis and at that time, there were several around town. I started out as a sack boy, got promoted to stock boy, and after a while promoted to "Checker." I had a "knack" for being able to quickly determine the tax on a sub total for food and make change no matter what the amount. Today, being able to make change appears to be almost an art form. Our young people have been spoiled by electronic cash registers.

But I digress. Bubba needed a job and I had developed a good reputation, so I put it all on the line and got Bubba a job at the Giant Food Store where I worked. Everything started out just fine. Then the Mid-South Fair came to town.

The Mid-South Fair was the biggest annual event for all young and young at heart people from the Mid-South. It was a week-long event that drew people from 4 or 5 states. There were amusement rides, including the Pippin which was a huge roller coaster sitting on a 30 or 40-year-old rickety wooden frame that rattled and shook as the cars rolled over it, livestock shows, a rodeo, and entertainment from some of the biggest country stars of the day.

We always attended the Mid-South Fair, but now that we had a driver's license, we didn't need Mom or Dad to chaperone us. We could come and go when we wanted, for the most part. The weekend was the busiest and best time to attend. That's when all our buddies went, and the stars were on stage performing. It was at a Mid-South Fair that began my love for Country music. The last year I went to the Fair (my senior year in High School), I saw Johnny Cash, the Carter Family, and a relatively new group called The Statler Brothers.

Anyway, the Mid-South Fair was in town and Bubba and I were scheduled to work the Saturday evening of the Fair. We concocted a story about our Dad having car troubles just across the Bridge going into Arkansas, and that we had to go to help fix the car and transport Dad to the parts store. It was the perfect plan...at least in the mind of 16 and 17-year-old boys.

I don't know how our boss was able to see through the ruse. But when we reported to work on our next scheduled day, he called us up to his office. And he was fuming mad.

He ranted and screamed about us neglecting our responsibilities to attend a Fair. We tried to explain we were on a mission to help our poor Dad, but he wasn't buying it. Man, how did he ever see through the lie? I thought we were very convincing.

After a few minutes of ranting, I figured out that we were going to be put on notice that if we did it again, we'd be gone, but we were going to be let off with just this warning and counseling. But unfortunately, I didn't take into account the "Bubba Factor!"

Just about the time the boss was finishing a very well deserved "Come to Jesus" counseling session, Bubba's face turned beet red and his face got all screwy. I had seen this look before and it never resulted in anything positive for him or anyone near him. He untied his apron, lifted it over his head, wadded it up and threw it in the face of our sitting manager. As the apron flew through the air toward its target, he yelled, "We don't have to put up with this crap! We Quit!!!!"

I looked at him and said, "We? We Quit?" I looked at my manager with a plea in my face and started to let him know that Bubba wasn't speaking for the team. Too late! By that time, the boss was so mad he yelled at both of us to leave immediately. I tried to explain that the opinion of my idiot brother was not representative of us both, but my plea fell on deaf ears. He just screamed again, "Get Out!" That was the end of my days in the grocery business.

So, in reality I didn't really get fired, I quit. Or did I? I guess I could make an argument either way. But that was the LAST time I got Bubba a job working with me. Many, many years later he returned the favor and hired me to work with him and his wife Mary, as an engineer in their telecommunications business. I worked for him 6 years. I love my brother and wanted to continue to love my brother. So, I quit and moved to Colorado Springs.

# AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Pikes Peak Honor Gd. Meeting 6:00pm	4	5	6 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	7	8 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am 
9	10 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	11	12	13 P.R. Committee Meeting 6:00pm 	14 Flag Day/Army B'Day! ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! \$10 	15
16 Father's Day	17 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm	18	19	20	21 Summer Solstice Department of Colorado Annual Convention-Elegante Hotel Chicken Fried Steak! RSVP Required! 	22
23 Convention	24 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	25 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm 	26	27	28 Chef's Choice! - RSVP Required! 	29
30	Notes: No Hamdogger Nite due to Monthly Membership Meeting being the next day. We will serve Chicken Fried Steak on the 3rd Friday due to supporting the Department Convention.					



## JUST A REMINDER!!

### COLORADO'S 100<sup>TH</sup> DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

JUNE 20-23, 2019  
 HOTEL ELEGANTE  
 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

WE WILL BE ELECTING OUR 100<sup>TH</sup> DEPARTMENT COMMANDER!!  
 JOIN US IN RE-IGNITING PATRIOTISM!!