



# The Centennial

Volume XV

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June 2024

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST  
209



UCCS ROTC Awards. L/R Commander Weaver, Cadets Kaden Dwyer, Kevin Ovalle, Allan Remedor, and Wayne Cook.

## INSIDE:

<b>From our Officers (Pages 3-11)</b>	<b>Special Features (Pages 11-12)</b>	<b>Upcoming Events (Pages 13-19)</b>	<b>Programs (Pages 20)</b>	<b>Calendar (Page 21-22)</b>
- Hear from your Post family officers on the latest news and information	- Salty Dog - Bringing a Little South to the West	- Flagship Health - Alarm Battery Replacement - Boys State - Girls State - First Flag Program - Walk of Honor - Room rental	- Programs for Our Kids	- Calendar of Events

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[www.legion209.org](http://www.legion209.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>



### The American Legion Post 209 Officers 2023-2024

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<b>Interim Adjutant:</b>	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b>	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
<b>Jr. Vice Commander:</b>	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Jeff Heischman	(719) 482-4357
<b>Service Officer:</b>	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
<b>Judge Advocate:</b>	Marvin Weaver	(719) 638-4763
<b>Historian:</b>	Kurt Skinner	(719) 963-3517
<b>Exec. Committeeman:</b>	Art Kimbrel	(719) 339-4610
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Bob "Odie" O'Donnell	(719) 432-6018
<b>Immediate Past CDR:</b>	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
<b>Sgt.-at-Arms:</b>	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775



### American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2023-2024

<b>President:</b>	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
<b>Vice President:</b>	Cathy Barger	(719) 290-3163
<b>Secretary:</b>	Pat Weaver	(719) 638-4763
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Ariel Foster	(719) 281-7965
<b>Exec.-at-Large:</b>	Jackie Bowen	(901) 481-0673
<b>Historian:</b>	Maria Alicea	(719) 900-8426
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Michelle Bresee	



### Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2023-2024

<b>Commander:</b>	Rob Barry	(719) 930-5725
<b>Adjutant:</b>	Bob "Odie" O'Donnell	(719) 432-6018
<b>Sr. Vice Commander:</b>	Chris Hollingsworth	(910) 364-1677
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<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ken Taylor	(719) 461-4047
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Jim Bird	(719) 231-4928
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Tom Foster	(719) 339-2667
<b>Executive Committeeman:</b>	Brian Wess	(719) 528-6672 (home)



### American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2024-2025

<b>Director:</b>	Sean Cope	(719) 246-4820
<b>Vice Director:</b>	Chris Cicchi	(719) 493-5897
<b>Secretary:</b>	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
<b>Sgt-at-Arms:</b>	Terry Buxton	
<b>Road Captain:</b>	Scott Laudan	(719) 238-2679
<b>Logistics:</b>	Maria Alecia	
<b>Communications:</b>	Chris Castillo	
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Jim Bird	(719) 231-4928



## From the Desk of Our Commander

I'm sitting here writing my article for this month and I realize this is my last article as Commander. I thought I would be excited to write this article, but it is turning out to be harder to write than expected. I want to say thank you for allowing me to be the Commander for the last two plus years. It has been an honor to serve. We have accomplished a lot during my Command and I have you all to thank for the fun time it has been.

Over the past two years we have done a lot to help Veterans and Children along with making many Post improvements. We have continued to be a big part of Boys & Girls State with even more of our members getting involved with the programs. Post 209 continues to be a big supporter of both programs. We started a new program that will hopefully become a program for National. That program is the First Flag Initiative. Last July we handed out over 30 American Flags and Flag Etiquette books to new citizens after they took their oath and we will be doing this again at the next ceremony in July. We did this to welcome them as new Americans and that we support legal immigration.

We picked up a new Cub Scout pack to continue our support of Scouting. With the new Pack we now sponsor 2 Cub Scout Packs, 3 Scout Troops, and a Venture Crew. Speaking of Scouting, we have the honor of five Scouts completing their Eagle Scout projects for us. The first was to xeriscape around the trees in the front of the parking lot and fixing the drainage problem we had in the parking lot. The Second was the fence we have out back to allow a safe place for kids to play. Third was the benches that can also be made into picnic tables to allow our dinners to spill outside when it is warmer. Fourth was the other fence to allow us to safely store the trailer we use for the Veterans Day parade and the motorcycle trailer for the ALR. The fifth project was putting up the playground set to give kids someplace to play. These projects improve our Post and a big thank you goes out to those Eagle Scouts.

We replaced the awning in front of the Post as well as the "carpet" leading into the Post since it had become a trip hazard. The sign we had out front was faded and the wood was rotting so we replaced that as well. All this to make our Post look better to the public.

Also, over the Past two years we have once again hit an all-time high in membership and obtained our goal for the year. We had not made our goal since COVID. Attendance at the Membership meetings has been steadily rising over the past two years Friday night dinners have also been growing. All of this is thanks to you.

Lastly, I want to Thank all of the Officers of the Post, Auxiliary, Sons, and the Riders over the past two years. You all have helped make the past two years easy and fun at the same time. We would not have been able to accomplish what we have the past two years without your help and support. Thank you to all of the Post members that put your trust in me; it has been an honor and a privilege to serve you!

Thanks for all you do to help Veterans and our Post!

*Marvin Weaver, Jr.*  
**Post 209 Commander**





## From Our Senior Vice Commander

SUPER job by all on membership this year. The entire Post 209 family (Post, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion) all surpassed 100% membership goal for the year and our Legion Riders have 69 members, which makes them the largest ALR in the state right now. That is AWESOME! The 2025 membership year is around the corner – Check your profile on <https://mylegion.org/> and consider upgrading to Paid Up for Life (PUFL), upgrading to multi-year membership before the rate increase, or checking auto renew. Any of these actions now will help prevent the continuous renewal reminders after July.

We are gearing up for a full summer of programs, events and activities. Not everyone can get involved in everything on the post schedule, but be sure check the event calendar and get engaged in some of them. Participation is a lot of fun and support to our programs is very rewarding. We look forward to seeing you at the post!

*Steve Hayes*

**Senior Vice Commander**



## From Our American Legion Auxiliary Juniors

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to all of you in my American Legion Post 209 Family! This is my first year being a member of the American Legion and Auxiliary. I feel like my membership has been longer due to my mom and dad's membership of Post 178. I am proud to have served in the Army for 14 years and have been a military wife next to my husband, an Air Force Retiree. I am currently serving on the ALA Colorado Department Juniors Committee, as the ALA Post 209 Juniors Chair, and I am looking forward to serving as a Girls State Counselor for the first time this year. I am excited to assist the Junior members to love and respect our country, as well as our military members, Veterans, and their families. Our two girls, Savannah (11) and Abby (8) are definitely excited for our upcoming activities: National Poppy Day (24 May) asking for donations to support our Veterans in preparation for Memorial Day and for the Colorado Department Convention in June. We are looking forward to growing our Junior Program. If you have children (up to 17 years of age) interested in joining the Juniors we would love to have them join us!

*Rebeckah Arpan*

**Chairperson  
American Legion Auxiliary Juniors**





## Chaplain's Corner

### Guarding...

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **Philippians 4:7**

To defend that which is weak. To strengthen that which is strong. To guard that which is precious—that is our calling whether in uniform or not.

Those sworn to defend the U.S. “against all enemies foreign and domestic” have assumed a serious responsibility. Special training and weapons are used to equip them for this special task. We pray for their safety and success. But there is more to the picture labeled “Guarding.”

America has more than once undertaken efforts to win the hearts and minds of those who might join with our enemies. The hope is they will become emotionally connected to our cause when we win over their hearts. If we can win their minds, their thinking and goals will be aligned with our plans and programs.

If we can gain the hearts and minds of people, they will become our allies, not our enemies.

But among many scripture writings, we find no calls for war against Rome. Instead, to the Roman Christians, the Apostle Paul wrote, “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established” (Romans 13:1).

Neither wishful thinking nor fierce determination is enough to survive the hellish attacks of doubt and fear. We cannot guard ourselves against such powers. We cannot guard others. Mortals are not strong enough to hold on to this peace. We need help.

We need to call in the One who is, “our trusty shield and weapon.” We need the One to whom belongs “the kingdom, the power, and the glory.” We need the Lord God.

We will not make that mistake. We will not forget to pray to the Lord to guard us.

Will we?

**If you have any spiritual needs (prayer, praises, blessings, death in family, etc.) I am here for you. If you just need someone to talk with for any reason, I am here for you. I don't have to know you or your family. reach out to me at [bob.odonnell@comcast.net](mailto:bob.odonnell@comcast.net) or 719-432-6018.**

*Bob "Odie" O'Donnell*  
Chaplain Odie



## From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

It is hard to believe that two years have gone by. I am proud to have been the Commander of Squadron 209. We have seen many changes from post-COVID to an active group once again.



Our membership is up over 100 and still growing. There have been many programs created that are still functioning. I am so impressed with the youth at our Post from scouting, the crew, and all the shooters who have come through. They give me hope that our future is in good hands.

I would like to thank all the friends and family members that have made our Squadron so successful. We are amazing because of you. I am excited to see what is to come. We have a great future ahead of us with Chris Hollingsworth taking command. Please welcome him and see what you can do to help him be successful.

As I am taking on the next step as Detachment Commander, my focus will be on involving and educating the youth. We can help them get excited about The American Legion, our country, and their future ahead. Ask yourself what you can do to be a part of the future leadership of America. They need us more than ever.

This next year will be an exciting one. We will be hoping to reinstate the Department charter and open a new chapter for Colorado. The Sons of the American Legion is a vital member of the family making this happen. The future looks great!

*Rob Barry*  
SAL Commander



## A Big Change is Coming!

At the Spring Meetings on Tuesday, 7 May, our own Past Post and Past Department Commander Jay Bowen was given the honor and privilege to open a Hospitality Room at the Fall Meetings 4-8 October. What this means is that when the gavel falls closing the National Convention in New Orleans on Thursday, 29 August, Jay will officially become the Following or Trailing Candidate for National Commander.

Jay will be only the second Legionnaire from Colorado to serve as the leader of the largest Veterans Service Organization in its 107-year history. Post 209 member Tom Bock is the only other Colorado Legionnaire elected to this high office. He served during the 2005-2006 year.

Jay is now building his team in preparation to begin his two-year campaign. If you are interested in supporting and possibly participating on the team, let Jay and/or Tom Bock (his campaign manager) know. He needs to quickly identify approximately 15-18 people interested in traveling with him and Jackie to Indianapolis in October in support of a three-day Hospitality event.

Even if you are not available to travel, there's still work to be done in support of the campaign. He will be conducting several fundraising events across the state and you can help with some of those. Speaking of fundraisers, if you have an idea for a fundraising event, let Jay know. If you would like to make a personal donation to the campaign, he's made that easy. You can donate with a check, cash, money order, or Venmo. If check or money order, please make it out to: "American Legion Post 209." In the memo, write "NEST EGG." You can mail the check to "American Legion Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO, 80917." That will get the donation to an

account setup for the war chest. This money will be used to help defray the costs of getting our team to/from events and support his campaign travels.

Jay's goal is to raise a minimum of \$50,000 by October, toward an ultimate goal of \$200,000 for the two-year campaign he will be starting in September. He currently has a little over half of that October goal.

Jay will need about 25-30 people total for the campaign team. He is hoping to have a mix of Legion family (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons) from across the state.



## From the Bike of the ALR Post 209 Director

Why do we ride motorcycles? Is motorcycling, as some people have insisted for so long, just another leisure activity, like watching TV? Hmmmm, don't know what to do with myself for the next couple of hours. While it may be like that for a few riders, for most of us the motorcycle is not an elective time killer. It is a permanent state, a part of our lives. The motorcycle binds together people, freedom, and responsibility. Manage the freedom or fall! That bargain stays with every rider. Riding has also brought together all our members and our pursuit of service and our dedication to our Post, family, and veterans. With that said...the Post 209 Riders are in full riding season tempo and are doing amazing things. Our first Post BBQ Dinner of the year was a big success and Worldwide, YAYO, Badger and Timewarp rode well over a combined 6,8K miles supporting the 2024 XXXIV Run For The Wall. Lastly, I'd like to share some of our end of year reporting statistics. All 70 of the Post 209 American Legion Riders rode a combined 146285.2 miles, contributed 6982.3 service hours and donated over 17K. So, why do we ride? "We Ride for those that can't." Our goal is to ride and show the community that we represent Veterans in all that we do in our lives. Post 209 Riders are dedicated to this mission that benefits our nation's veterans, its service members, their families, the youth of America and all ordinary citizens.

*Sean "Wizard" Cope*

Director, American Legion Riders



## From our Post Historian

"Don't Give up the Ship!" were the dying words of James Lawrence, Captain of the U.S. frigate *Chesapeake*, during a 1 June 1813 battle with Royal Navy frigate *Shannon*. His devoted friend, Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, had the sentiment sewn onto his personal battle flag and, in time, the declaration became the motto of the U.S. Navy.

The National Defense Act of 3 June 1916 authorized Congress to draft the National Guard into federal overseas service in the event of national emergency, which it invoked the next year during WW1.



The Battle of Midway (3-7 June 1942) was “the” turning point in the Pacific war with Japan. The American destruction of the Japanese carrier fleet began the costly three-year counteroffensive to push the Japanese back island by island.

6 June 1944 – “D-Day” – Operation Overlord commenced the long-anticipated WWII Allied invasion of Northwestern Europe– Allies landed nearly 150,000 troops on the Normandy coastline of France. Among those Americans in the first wave of landings on Utah and Omaha beaches was American Legion founding member, Brigadier General Theodore “Ted” Roosevelt Jr and his son, Captain Quentin Roosevelt. Awarded the Medal of Honor for his “gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty” that day, BG Ted Roosevelt’s citation reads:

After two verbal requests to accompany the leading assault elements in the Normandy invasion had been denied, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt’s written request for this mission was approved and he landed with the first wave of the forces assaulting the enemy-held beaches. He repeatedly led groups from the beach, over the seawall and established them inland. His valor, courage, and presence in the very front of the attack and his complete unconcern at being under heavy fire inspired the troops to heights of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice. Although the enemy had the beach under constant direct fire, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt moved from one locality to another, rallying men around him, directed and personally led them against the enemy. Under his seasoned, precise, calm, and unfaltering leadership, assault troops reduced beach strong points and rapidly moved inland with minimum casualties. He thus contributed substantially to the successful establishment of the beachhead in France.



In the distance of history, when America unashamedly asserted itself as defender of freedom and leader of the free world, President Ronald Reagan, the finest Commander-in-Chief under which your Historian proudly served, stood at the Brandenburg Gate in West Berlin on 12 June 1987 and challenged the Soviet leader to “dramatically advance the cause of freedom and peace...Mister Gorbachev, tear down this wall...” Within two years, the German people felt emboldened to confront the Communist oppressors and began dismantling the Wall and reuniting their nation.

On 14 June 1775, the Continental Congress first authorized ten companies of riflemen, drawn from different colonies, creating a “Continental Army,” the forerunner of the U.S. Army.

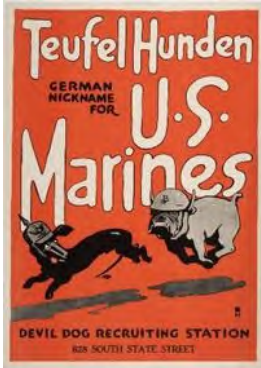
The Continental Congress adopted a resolution on 14 June 1777 that determined “the flag of the United States be thirteen alternate stripes red and white...and the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.” A century later, the first “Flag Day” observance was held 14 June 1877 on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Stars and Stripes” adoption.





New England militiamen positioned on the high ground above Boston harbor on Bunker Hill (and Breed's Hill) faced a frontal assault of the British army on 17 June 1775. Reportedly ordered to hold their fire "until you see the whites of their eyes," the Patriot militiamen inflicted over 1000 casualties on the British army before retreating into the Boston countryside. Although considered a British victory, the Battle of Bunker Hill busted the British myth of an anticipated easy victory over "undisciplined" American amateur soldiers.

A combined force of Sioux and Cheyenne warriors under the leadership of Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse devastated a considerable portion of George Custer's 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry on 25 June 1876 in the worst American army defeat of the Plains Indian Wars. News of the demoralizing Battle of the Little Bighorn reached a stunned American nation on the eve of national Centennial celebrations.



The Battle of Belleau Wood (1-26 June 1918) was the first large-scale battle fought by the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) during WW1, resulting in nearly 10,000 U.S. casualties. American Marines particularly distinguished themselves in the ferocious hand-to-hand fighting, reportedly described by their German adversaries as "Devil Dogs" (Teufel Hunden), which the USMC proudly utilized in their recruiting efforts.

30 June 1950 – President Truman ordered American forces to South Korea after the surprise Soviet-backed Communist North Korean invasion. This marked the first time the UN Security Council had approved the use of military force.

*Kurt Skinner*  
Historian



## From our Color/Honor Guard Captain

At the time of writing this article, the Honor Guard is committed to supporting the Pikes Peak National Cemetery's Memorial Day Ceremony. The team will perform the three rifle volleys and team member Brian Borden will play TAPS. I hope the members of the Post 209 Family were able to attend such an important event.

The Honor Guard NEEDS YOUR HELP! The team has, unfortunately, had to start denying requests for veterans Final Honors due to not enough members (three) available to support. Recently, the team has experienced the loss of key members and/or key member availability to support Final Honors. So, there are now only a handful of team members supporting the majority of all events, something that cannot be sustained indefinitely.

And now for the standard ending of my newsletter article – Want to be part of a great team? The Honor Guard needs to gain more new team members in order to ensure we are able to continue supporting our veterans and our community. Understandably, not everyone has much time to participate in the Honor Guard. In reality, all someone needs are a few available hours: about an

hour to participate a night for a training meeting (check the newsletter calendar or the calendar on the Honor Guard website - <https://legion209.org/honorguard209/>) and up to a couple of hours for an event. So around three hours a month for a meeting and just **ONE** event is all you need to make a difference in helping support our veterans and our community. Members of The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion, and The American Legion Auxiliary are all eligible to be members of the Honor Guard with all uniform items provided except Legion family-specific cap and shoes. If you or someone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please reach out to me at: (719) 482-4496 or [honor.guard@legion209.org](mailto:honor.guard@legion209.org).

Like and Follow Post 209 Honor Guard” Facebook page. The link is at the top of the Honor Guard website: <https://legion209.org/honorguard209/>

*Joel W. Haas*  
**Honor Guard Captain**



## **From our Junior Shooting Sports Program**

The Young Guns Basic Course provides youth ages 10-18 years old (boys and girls) the opportunity to learn about firearms safety and basic shooting skills. During Young Guns, credentialed National Rifle Association (NRA) Basic Rifle Instructors teach the safe handling of firearms, shooting positions (prone, kneeling, and standing), how to zero a rifle, and how to score targets. At the end of the course, the youth have a competition shoot against the others in the course in order to show off the skills they have learned. The Marksmanship Course provides graduates of Young Guns the opportunity to further develop their shooting skills. If you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, neighbor kid, etc. interesting in learning about firearm safety, contact the Post 209 JSSP at: [jssp209@gmail.com](mailto:jssp209@gmail.com)

The Fall 2024 Junior Shooting Class flyer has been posted on the Young Guns website. The Young Guns brochure, Basic Course Application (new shooters), and Marksmanship Course Application are also available on the website. The cost for students is \$30. It is never too early to sign up, so send in your youth's application today! The Fall 2024 classes start with Marksmanship on Wednesday September 11 and Young Guns on Thursday September 12.

The JSSP needs Instructors and Range Safety Officers (RSOs) to support the program, ensuring quality instruction and a safe range for the students. A tentative schedule has been set for holding NRA Basic Pistol, NRA Basic Rifle, and NRA Basic RSO Courses this summer. The scheduled courses are based on interest and number of student signups, a minimum of four students are needed for each course at least two weeks prior to the course date (to allow for ordering materials from the NRA). The cost for each course is \$60 and covers: all materials, range time, firearm use, ammunition, and lunch. The courses scheduled are:

- NRA Basic Range Safety Officer Course

07:00-17:00 at Post 209

Saturday August 3 (Sign up by July 19)

- NRA Basic Rifle Course

07:30-17:00 (07:30-15:00 at Post 209, 15:30-17:00 at a range TBD)

Sunday August 18 (Sign up by August 2)

If you are interested in one or more courses, volunteering, or just learning more about the Post 209 JSSP, please email: [jwhaas.jssp209@gmail.com](mailto:jwhaas.jssp209@gmail.com).

Like and Follow “Centennial Post 209 Young Guns Shooting Sports” Facebook page. The link is at the top of the Young Guns website: <https://legion209.org/young-guns/>

*Joel W. Haas*  
JSSP Instructor



## Salty Dog

The **United States Merchant Marine** is an organization composed of United States civilian mariners and U.S. civilian and federally owned merchant vessels. Both the civilian mariners and the merchant vessels are managed by a combination of the government and private sectors, and engage in commerce or transportation of goods and services in and out of the navigable waters of the United States. The Merchant Marine primarily transports domestic and international cargo and passengers during peacetime, and operate and maintain deep-sea merchant ships, tugboats, towboats, ferries, dredges, excursion vessels, charter boats and other waterborne craft on the oceans, the Great Lakes, rivers, canals, harbors, and other waterways. In times of war, the Merchant Marine can be an auxiliary to the United States Navy, and can be called upon to deliver military personnel and materiel for the military. The Military Sealift Command still operates supply ships for the US Navy with a USNS designation for the ship.



*Marvin Weaver, Jr.*  
Post 209 Commander





## Bringing A Little South to the West

There was something about my 16<sup>th</sup> year of living on this earth. Blame it on hormones, or the anti-war movement, hippies, the age of the love child, or any number of things, but the bottom line I was not pleasant to be around for much of that year. Then I, along with brother Bubba joined a Golden Gloves program conducted by the Memphis Police Department. I think that helped change my attitude...for a short while.

I was never really good at boxing, although I had plenty of practice. Growing up, whenever Bubba and I had a dispute over something (which was often), Dad would make us put on a pair of boxing gloves and take it outside. He would serve as referee and we'd go at each other. Bubba was a little taller than me and pretty quick. Being a year older, I guess I was also a little intimidated by fighting an older person. Boxing, like in many other sports, you can lose the match if not mentally prepared. And most of the time I was not. That gave Bubba a clear advantage and left me getting knocked to the ground in most bouts. Normally, when one of us hit the dirt, the fight was over. Thinking back, it never really did solve whatever our dispute was to begin with, but it quite often made us forget what our original fight was about, so I guess that was Dad's plan all along.

But the one thing it did teach me was pugilistic basics. So, when Bubba and I joined the Golden Gloves team at the Police Department, I had an edge in a few different ways. I understood the basics for boxing, moving, jabbing, and I was also a southpaw. Most of the fighters in my Lightweight Class didn't know how to fight a southpaw, and I grew up fighting right-handed boxers. This actually made me pretty popular with my coaches. There was no one on our team who could best me at sparring. And finally, I felt pretty good about being able to actually win a bout.

Then the inevitable happened, I ran away from home. Growing up in my day, this was a very popular means of protest. Bubba had done it a year before me (when he was uh let me guess, 16). He stayed away for about a week and he and a buddy hitchhiked their way to Florida. I don't think Dad and Mom punished him for that excursion, but they handed down a sentence to me when I did it (and I never even left Memphis, I stayed with a friend who had his own apartment) that was about the worse punishment I could have gotten. I had to get a crew-cut. For a 16-year-old during that period, only nerds wore their hair short, and Mom and Dad knew it.

Well, when I returned home and made peace with the family, I tried to re-join the Golden Gloves team. For some reason, the Memphis City Police Department frowns on delinquents, so I was cut from the team. And to make matters worse, when the time came for the state-wide tournament, the guy who won in the Lightweight Class was on our team and a guy I had often beat sparring.

Between running away from home, getting thrown off the Golden Gloves team, and the coup de grace, I flunked the 10<sup>th</sup> grade and spent my summer in school, I was glad to survive my high school sophomore year and gain a year of experience and wisdom. I got much smarter when I turned 17. Notice I didn't say I got smart, I just got smarter. But the bar wasn't very high, so I guess that really doesn't say much.

I believe I learned some very valuable life lessons at 16. And it has served me well. I've never once ran away from home since being married to Jackie and never even thought about doing so. I don't think I could stand another crew-cut.

*Jay Bowen*  
**Past Commander**





## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **PRIMARY CARE FOR SENIORS, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Advanced primary care services  
for Seniors, Veterans and their  
families.

Coordination of care for Veterans  
to ensure you are receiving the  
benefits you have earned.

Social and wellness events to  
connect you with other Seniors and  
Veterans.

---

**Contact us today to schedule a tour of  
our Colorado Springs clinic.  
We look forward to seeing you!**



719.733.3131



[flagshiphealth.org/contact](http://flagshiphealth.org/contact)

### **Flagship Health Sponsored Events**

Rocky Mountain Vibes Military Nights Honoring Senior Veterans (free tickets will be available at the Post)

- June 6 – Commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day, Honoring all senior Veterans and special honors to our remaining WWII Veterans

#### **Other Events**

- June 8 – CPR and First Aid training at noon immediately following our monthly membership meeting



SAL



## SAFETY INITIATIVE

Sons of the American Legion  
Squadron 209 will replace and install  
smoke detector batteries at no cost for  
veterans in financial need or with  
physical limitations

Contact SQ 209:  
Rob Barry  
719-930-5725  
[colo.rsb@yahoo.com](mailto:colo.rsb@yahoo.com)



Made with PosterMyWard.com





# The American Legion

## Rocky Mountain Boys State

### A Week that will shape a Lifetime



*"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction... it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation."*

*-Ronald Reagan*

**HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS – Your Future starts here!**  
**YOU can join the nation's premier civics program**  
**developing future leaders in Colorado since 1949**

- Build leadership skills AND lifelong friendships
- Fun Action-based learning in Self-Government
- Support and defend our Constitution
- Stand up for America's political heritage
- If selected all tuition costs are included



**June 2<sup>nd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Sterling, CO**

**Start your application NOW!**

**[www.CoLegionBoysState.org](http://www.CoLegionBoysState.org)**





## THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

**JUNE 10-15, 2024, NORTHEASTERN JR COLLEGE, STERLING**

The American Legion Auxiliary Colorado Girls State program is a unique and exciting government-in-action learning program that encourages high school juniors to become empowered and knowledgeable leaders.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY



### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- ☆ Develops pride and understanding of American government, freedoms, and traditions.
- ☆ Inspires young women of all backgrounds and interests to engage with our system of government.
- ☆ Stimulates passion for the democratic processes within our republic and the brave individuals who fight for our freedoms.
- ☆ Fosters confidence, growth, and life-long friendships.

For information, visit us at  
[www.ALAColorado.org/  
Girls-State.html](http://www.ALAColorado.org/Girls-State.html) or contact  
your local American Legion  
Auxiliary Unit.



# LOOKING FOR A WAY TO “FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A 100% AMERICANISM”?



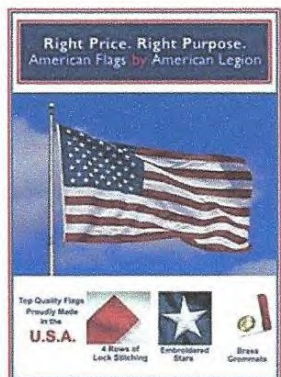
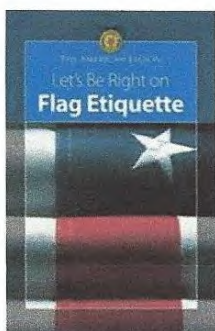
## SPONSOR A U.S. FLAG TO A NEW AMERICAN CITIZEN

for presentation at the next  
Citizenship Naturalization  
ceremony in Colorado Springs



### YOUR \$25 GIFT WILL PROVIDE:

- Made in USA All-weather U.S. Flag
- U.S. Flag Etiquette booklet
- Your sponsor gift note to the new citizen



**Contact Kurt Skinner**  
**Post 209 Americanism Chair**  
**To Sponsor Your U.S. Flag**  
**TODAY!**

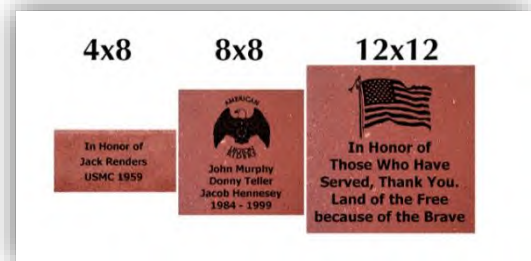
**719-963-3517**

**[RoughRiderTR@gmail.com](mailto:RoughRiderTR@gmail.com)**

# Walk of Honor



- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering desired but typically range from \$75 to \$200, depending on size.
- **What are the costs for the corporate/veteran supporter bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$125 to \$500.
- **What is the difference between individual and corporate bricks?** Individual bricks are for veterans and family members wishing to purchase a brick to honor their veterans. The corporate bricks are for our veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who want to show their continued support for our nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the brick purchase restricted to members of the Post 209 families?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves for their veteran loved ones or to show their support for our veterans.
- **Where do I go to buy a brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit [legion209.org](http://legion209.org) and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. In addition, you will see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How do I pay for the brick?** We have the site set up to accept payment via PayPal or 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 sent 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 in the area we call the Walk of Honor.
- **How long will this fundraiser effort last?** We plan to continue selling bricks until the Walk of Honor is covered with personalized bricks.
- **Will I have an opportunity to buy a brick later?** Quite possibly, depending 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 projects. If you buy multiple bricks, let our Adjutant know, and we will ensure they are all placed together.**



# Celebrate

At  
American Legion  
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

Host your next event with us! With over 2,500 SQFT of venue space this is the perfect location for your next social event!



## Rental Features:

- 6 Hour Rental
- In House Catering Available\*
- Fully Stocked Bar\*
- Muti-Room Sound System
- Dance Floor with Lighting

If you and your family are looking for an affordable option for a wedding, corporate event, retirement party, or any other event, we here at The American Legion Post 209 are ready to assist you in all your event planning needs.

Starting at

**\$350!**



For More Information

[www.legion209.org/contact\\_us](http://www.legion209.org/contact_us)

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

\*Additional cost may apply

## PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

### Young Guns



NRA-Accredited members of Sons of The American Legion are sponsors and instructors for the Young Guns program. This basic rifle safety and marksmanship course are offered to boys and girls ages 10-18. Shooting is indoors, using air rifles.

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCentennialPost209/>

### Scouting Programs

The Post 209 family is the charter partner with the following Boy Scouts of America (BSA) units:



- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls): p24@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 77 (Girls): t77@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 79 (Boys): t79@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 187 (Boys): t187@legion209.org
- Venture Crew 762 (Young men and women ages 14-20): c762@legion209.org

### Boys and Girls State



Boys State and Girls State are for high school juniors going into their senior year with at least one semester left.

- BOYS STATE [www.colegionboysstate.org/](http://www.colegionboysstate.org/)
- GIRLS STATE <http://alacolorado.com/girls-state.org>

### Oratorical Contest



This Nationwide contest is designed to develop a more profound knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.

[www.colegionoratorical.org](http://www.colegionoratorical.org)

### Eagle Scout of the Year



















The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year nomination window is from **1 November to 1 March**. Nomination packets must be received by each applicant's respective The American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than 1 March.

<https://legion209.org/Scouting/>



June 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>  Honor Bell Meeting 10:00am
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Exec. Cmtee Mtg 6:00pm Venture Crew 7:00pm RM Vibes Baseball!  	<b>7</b> Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>8</b> Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00   CPR/1st Aid Training
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>14</b> Flag Day/Army B'Day Price TBD SAL Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Father's Day	<b>17</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>18</b> ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	<b>19</b> Juneteenth	<b>20</b> Summer Solstice  Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>21</b> Department Convention - Ignacio	<b>22</b> Healing Warriors! 9:00am-1:00pm Flagship Health will be available
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>25</b> ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:45pm  	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  Venture Crew 7:00pm	<b>28</b> Price TBD ALA Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	Notes: Flagship Health is Sponsoring an Event at the Rocky Mountain Vibes game Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. Free Tickets available. Flagship Health will be conducting CPR and First Aid Training on 8 June immediately following our membership meeting. No dinner is planned for 21 June. The core team who typically provides the dinner will be at the Department Convention. Boys State is from 2-8 June at Northeastern Junior College. Girls State is from 10-15 June at Northeastern Junior College.					

July 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>2</b> Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Indep. Day  Venture Crew 7:00pm 	<b>5</b> Price Depends on Menu  Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>6</b>   Honor Bell Meeting 10:00am
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Exec. Cmtee Mtg 6:00pm Venture Crew 7:00pm 	<b>12</b> Price TBD  ALR Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>13</b> Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>16</b> ALR Exec. Mtng 6:30pm. 	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Venture Crew 7:00pm 	<b>19</b> \$15/person  Chicken Fried Chicken 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>23</b> ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:45pm  	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm Venture Crew 7:00pm 	<b>26</b> Price TBD  Naturalization Ceremony Time TBD ALA Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required!  	<b>27</b>  Healing Warriors! 9:00am-1:00pm Flagship Health will be available
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	Notes:		