

The Centennial



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July 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

Well, the time has come for a new Commander to take over the Post and take us into the following year with high hopes of continuing on the great work of past Commanders and hopes of doing new things to continue to make this the best Post in the state. So without further ado, let me tell you a little about myself.

I come from a family that proudly served in the military. My father and all his brothers served along with my brother (who is a member of this Post). I served in US Army as a Cavalry Scout from 1982 to 1986. I spent 3 years in Mannheim, Germany with 3/8 Cav, which was part of the 8th Infantry Division where I made the rank of Sergeant. I got to spend a lot of time with most of my relatives on my mom's side in Augsburg while I was in Germany, so it was nice to know that I had family to go see. My next duty station ended up here at Ft. Carson where I was assigned to 1/10 Cav, which was assigned to the 4th Infantry Division. After being out for 7 years, I decided to go back into the Reserves in 1993. I was stationed with the 244th Engineer Battalion in Denver. I only did 2 years, for after being out for 7 years, the Army had changed so much that it wasn't any fun to be in anymore.

I never really thought about joining The American Legion when I got out, for I was busy with work and trying to raise a family and working on getting a college degree. Once my kids graduated out of high school, I began to think about what I could do to make a difference within this community and to Veterans that need help. I then signed up with the American Legion, but was a member of Post 211, the paper Post. I just happened to run into Larry Johnson at one of the many gun shows, and he's responsible for me becoming a member of this Post today. The first time I stepped into this Post I felt the family atmosphere and everyone made me feel welcome. I then noticed the motto on the wall "The Little Post, Going Places and Doing Big Things", and thought, I would really like to see what I can do to continue on what this Post has going for it.

I then happened to hear that this Post was working on getting a Riders group up and running and I thought, here is my opportunity to become part of something, that one, I really like to do and that is riding motorcycles, but also an opportunity to assist Veterans within the community while riding bikes. This is what really got me hooked.

One night while sitting down for dinner here at the Post, I got to talking to Chuck Zeitvogel, and he stated that it would really be good to see if we could get some younger folks involved in the officer level, to continue to steer this Post in the right direction and make this Post a part of me. So that's how I ended up getting involved at the officer level as Junior Vice. It was never my intentions of moving up to Commander as fast I did, but how can you say no to the real Jay Bowen. I told him that I have a lot to learn about the Legion and that I'd be afraid that I wouldn't be able to live up to what this Post expects from its Commander, and I was told that with all the prior leadership that's here, they would not allow me or the Post to fail. So that's how I ended up becoming the new Commander. I'm not perfect and you'll never hear me say that, so if you happen to see me do something that may be out of place, feel free to come up and talk to me. I'm open to all criticism and will take all of it to heart, to ensure that this Post continues to grow and make a difference to all the Veterans in it.

Remember, to live this motto, Family, God and Legion. Help ourselves first, and then we can help all others.



From the Unit 209 President

Cathy Barger

I am excited to start this new role as your Auxiliary President. It's with great honor and pride that I have the opportunity to serve you. I'll admit I don't know everything and I do make mistakes, but I know I have a good staff to fall back on if need be. For those of you who may not know much about me and my family, I will share some highlights. I'm a native of Colorado Springs and have been married to the incoming Legion Commander for 29 years. I have a step-brother who retired from the Air Force, served in the first Gulf War and resides in Alaska. I have another step-brother that served in the Marines and lives in Illinois. I have two children, a daughter 28 years old and is a member of the Auxiliary, a son 27 years old, whom we are working on getting signed up with SAL, a granddaughter 4 years old and a son-in-law, who's a member of the SAL and ALR. I also have three dogs to complete the family.

Kellie, Jackie and I had the pleasure to attend the 2016 Girl State Banquet in Greeley June 9th and I was amazed at all of the young women that attended Girls State. We sent 42 girls from our District to participate this year. We hope to get more next year. I know we're all busy away from the Post, but we could always use a hand in the kitchen so please think about volunteering. If you'd like to help out, just let Jackie or myself know when you would be available. In August, the Riders will be having their annual poker run on the 27th. They've asked for the Auxiliary to assist them with this so please keep an eye out for more details in the August newsletter. Also, the Riders are looking for items for their raffle and door prizes during the poker run, so if you have anything you'd like to donate, please get with Andy or Mike and they will gladly take it off your hands.

Happy Birthday to Liliane Hagelberg, Marion Daugherty, Antoinette (Krieket) Meade, Sydney Moneno, Emma Smith, Sharon Troelsch, Diane Robinson, Joanne Pendleton and Julia Blankenship. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

At the Post 209 July 4th picnic, we will be doing a flag retirement ceremony at 11:00 am, followed by a potluck at 12 noon, so bring a side dish. It's a time to see old friends, and meet new ones. I hope to see all of you there.

The ALR dinner for July is pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, baked beans and dessert. Please come down and support the Riders, and make sure to RSVP.



2016 Membership Drive

Senior Vice Commander Lino Calica

2016 was a very exciting membership year. The Department membership goal set for Post 209 was 886 members. Commander Greg Smith set our goal at 1000. He also informed us that we have the opportunity to become the number one American Legion Post in the state of Colorado. I am proud and excited to inform you that with all your dedication and hard work in recruiting new members and renewing existing members, we set the bar high and met all three challenges. At the 2016 Department Convention, it was announced that Post 209 recruited 1025 new and existing members and is the number one Post in Colorado. We could not have made it without the assistance of each and every one of you in the Post 209 family.

I am deeply humbled and honored to be given the opportunity to serve a third term as Senior Vice-Commander. I will continue to do my very best to serve the American Legion family and community to the best of my ability, and with your assistance I will succeed. I will strive to gain more knowledge, so I may better serve you. You all have made my journey with the Legion exciting, fun and enjoyable.



From the Adjutant

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

2017 renewal cards are out. There are a couple ways to prevent getting multiple renewal notices. The first is to send your renewal in as soon as you get it. I will be working hard to get your card out as soon as I get your renewal. You can pay by check, using our website through PayPal, or as always "Cash is King!" You can also give your renewal directly to me at the Post during any event where we may be.

We will not have a July General Membership meeting, but we are having our annual picnic on July 4th starting at 12:00 pm. The Post will provide the meat, we just ask that you bring a side dish. We will have a flag disposal ceremony before the picnic starting at 11:00 am. If you have a flag in need of disposal, bring it along.



From the Jr. Vice Commander

Bob Caddell

Let me introduce myself, Robert Caddell Sr. born in Colorado Springs in 1958. I grew up in Security/Widefield in the 60's and 70's. I am the third child of former USAF parents. My mother did a 2 year obligation and spent a tour in Japan in the 50's. My father was Career USAF 21 years. He helped set up the Air Force Academy in '54 out of Buckley. I joined the Navy in '75, 20 days after turning 17. I did nine years as a Boiler operator or Snipe for those who sailed the Seven Seas. I'm married 37 years with one grown son.

I hope to get to know as many of you as I can between the Legion general membership and the Legion Riders. I ride a motorcycle and was introduced to the Legion by Andy Gilbert at a Veterans get together 3 years ago at the Colorado Springs Unities.

I am also on the Vets 4 Vets committee as Secretary since joining the Legion. They raise funds for the Veteran's stand down in October. The committee consists of Veterans Motorcycle groups here in Colorado Springs from the ALR to Combat Vets MC, Special Forces MC, VFW Post with riders and others.

I have a speaker in the works for our August meeting and hope you all try to make it out to hear him. I hope to be the best Jr. Vice I can be and reflect the ideals and passion of the Legion to the best of my ability.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity.



From the Sergeant-at-Arms

"Sgt. Ski"

Good day American Patriots,

I just wanted to present you with just a few thoughts to ponder on this month from one of my favorite mentors.

-Giving back involves a certain amount of giving up. Colin Powell

-The healthiest competition occurs when average people win by putting above average effort. Colin Powell

-The chief condition on which, life, health and vigor depend on, is action. It is by action that an organism develops its faculties, increases its energy, and attains the fulfillment of its destiny. Colin Powell

-Leadership is solving problems. The day soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you have stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help or concluded you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership. Colin Powell

Thank you all for your service to this country and please have a great day!



The Young Guns are on summer break until September 2016. We have been invited to the Olympic Training Center on July 11, 2016 to shoot on their range. If any past graduates would like to go and have not been contacted, please call me and I will submit your name to the OTC. Everyone that goes must be registered. This will be a great experience for our young shooters!

The next Junior Shooting class starts on September 14th 2016. The class is open to all youths from age 10 through 18 but the class is limited to 12 students. At this writing, there are 5 openings left. We meet on Wednesdays, 6:30pm to 8:30pm 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.

You can check us out on Facebook where there are pictures and a video. Just go to 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 jssp209@gmail.com.



From The Commander Squadron 209

Ken Taylor

As we begin a new year, I would like to introduce myself as Commander of Squadron 209. I have been with this Squadron since we began revitalizing with a handful of members. To this day when we have grown to over 100 members. Many of you have known me as the Squadron Adjutant and I have thoroughly enjoyed being in that position. There are many people responsible for the success of this Squadron and I want to give a big THANK YOU to everyone involved. I especially want to thank Past Commander Rick Kettering who has led our Squadron for the past three years. Neal Thomas said “we won’t let you fail” and that has been true for Squadron 209.

Our biggest projects, the Child Welfare Foundation, the Josh Dog Project and the Junior Shooting Sports Program have been very successful and I plan to build on those successes. The SAL is part of the Legion Family and we will do all we can to support the Four Pillars; VA&R, Americanism, Children and Youth and a strong National Defense.



Change to 4th Friday Dinner Menu!

Our Chef and Club Manager, Art has been listening to you. Many members have suggested we mix things up a bit and offer a varied menu each month. So beginning July, the 4th Friday will be “Chef’s Surprise!” The menu will change from month to month and will be whatever Chef Art wants to prepare. It will replace our Fish and Chicken Fried Steak night.

Art promises you won’t be disappointed. His guarantee comes with your money back if not satisfied with the meal. Come on out and let’s give it a try!



From the Historian

Eric Testorff

The Centennial: A Great Resource for the History of Post 209

Many of you read the Post 209 “Centennial” newsletter each month, but did you know that you can read about what was happening with Post 209 all the way back to 40 years ago?

It’s true. The Post 209 Web site, legion209.org, features a “Newsletter” link, which gives access to past editions of the Centennial—some dating back as far as the mid 1970’s. Simply click the “Newsletter” link from any page and you are presented with a list of the Centennial editions currently available for your historical perusal. The list is broken up by decades, and each blue “link” is clickable, and will provide an electronic copy of that month’s Centennial.

Here is an example of the decade of the 1980’s:

You’ll notice that some of the links are gray. That means we currently don’t have a copy of that particular edition. That’s where YOU come in! If you happen to have an old issue of the Post 209 Centennial that we don’t currently have, you can loan it to us—long enough for us to scan it and put it online.

So dig into your file drawers, your attic, your basement.... Let’s build a complete list and turn those gray areas blue! Bring your found copies to Post 209, and we will make sure it gets into the Historian’s box. Your Post needs your help in completing our Centennial Newsletter history!



Download copies of "The Centennial"
The official newsletter of American Legion Centennial Post 209

Choose a Decade: | 1975-1979 | 1980-1989 | 1990-1999 | 2000-2009 | 2010-2019 |

1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Jan									
Feb									
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Nov									
Dec									

- Home
- Legion
- Auxiliary
- Sons (S.A.L.)
- Riders (A.L.R.)
- Honor Guard
- Newsletter
- Calendar
- Facilities
- Resources
- Contact Us
- Staff Login

News & Photos:





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

Isn't it interesting how we remember the past? On a recent trip back home to Tennessee, my brother, Eddie (affectionately known as Bubba) and I were regaling anyone who would listen about some of our adventures growing up. In his version, he was always the hero, gets the girl, and saves the world. Funny, I remember it slightly different.

In one such story was about a visit with our maternal grandparents; Maw-Maw and Paw-Paw. We both remember him as being a practical joker, man of God, and someone who never really got over being a kid. Anyway, we were leaving their Arkansas farmhouse to go into the nearby woods and kill some dinner. As we walked off the porch and down the 5 steps to a pretty steep sloping yard, Bubba looked over at Paw-Paw who had his 12 Gauge slung over his shoulder. This was an old Remington pump with a hammer. And the hammer was pulled back.

Maw-Maw was standing on the porch giving us our "marching orders" about when to return and to be careful. She had just walked back inside and closed the door when Bubba noticed the hammer back on the shotgun. He made a comment to Paw-Paw, who exclaimed, "Why boy, it doesn't matter. It's not loaded." To prove his point, Paw-Paw pulled the trigger and blew a hole in the door Maw-Maw had just closed. He looked over at us and kind of shrugged, and said something like, "Oh well." That was it. Until Maw-Maw opened the door and shouted, "EARL!" They had been married almost 50 years by that time and he knew what that meant. So, this barely 5'4" man looked at us, cracked a little smile and turned to walk back toward his almost 6' bride. He looked like a little boy caught with his hand in the cookie jar. Needless to say we didn't go hunting that afternoon.

In Bubba's version, most of the above was similar, except he tried to talk Paw-Paw out of pulling the trigger, but to no avail. We do agree that we didn't get to go hunting that day and we're not certain what happened when Maw-Maw took Paw-Paw into the house. This was pretty normal. There were several occasions when Paw-Paw did something mischievous or child-like and wound up getting caught. Maw-Maw would always take him into the house and make us stay outside for several minutes while they discussed what happened. We were typical teenagers, but combined we didn't get in nearly as much trouble as he did. Seems he never learned...or just didn't care. He was a GREAT man and just about everyone who knew him loved him dearly. But that's a story for another day.

Bubba's imaginations and exaggerations also flow over into his more rowdy days after he got his driver's license. He would occasionally sneak out of the house after lights out to meet up with the girlfriend du jour. He likes to tell the story of one late night as he was crawling back into the bedroom we shared until I went into the Army, I started screaming because I awoke scared. My screams woke Dad who caught Bubba half-way in the bedroom and half-way hanging out the window. Back in those days, we slept with windows open to let the window fan draw air through the house. We didn't have air-conditioning so that was our only way to stay comfortable during the muggy summer months. Anyway, Bubba likes to tell people that because of my screaming, he got yet another spanking and was grounded until he was 21 (that was Dad's favorite threat, which if he held to it, I would probably just be coming up on parole about now).

The truth of the matter (my version) was that he made so much racket climbing back into the bedroom that he woke Mom and Dad up with the kicking and scrambling he was doing to get back into the house. Their bedroom was next to ours and they had a window open about 6' from the one Bubba tried to climb back into. I didn't scream; I didn't have to. He made more noise than I could have by yelling. And the funny part was we had another window opening into the backyard that he could have crawled into, but he didn't want to go over the 5' fence to do it.

Funny, how our mind and memory works. The story teller is always the hero and gets the girl, or in Bubba's case, gets the whipping!



Post Officers 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Bob Caddell	719-393-5180
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Paul R. Darrow	719-237-4461
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasin-ski	719-556-8326
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Post Exec. Cmtee	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate		
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Jeremy Boltjes	218-831-0475



ALR Officers 2016-2017

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	719-201-3353



Auxiliary Officers 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Vice President	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Jackie Burd	719-590-6615
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073



Sons of The American Legion 2016-2017

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047
Sr. Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Adjutant	Steve Wolford	920-264-4238
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

July 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Canada Day	2
					Hamdogger 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	20	21	22 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFS! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	23
24	25	26 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm 	27	28	29	30 ALR McCandless Veterans Home BBQ
31	Notes: CFS is Chicken Fried Steak					

August 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Meeting 6:30pm 	5 Hamdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order. 	6
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 POW/MIA Veterans' Run to Cripple Creek 
21	22	23 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	24	25	26 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFS! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  	27 ALR Poker Run 
28	29	30	31	Notes: CFS is Chicken Fried Steak		

September 2016						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
CFS is Chicken Fried				1 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	2 Hamdogger 6:00pm Price Varies with order. 	3
4	5 Labor Day! Holiday	6	7	8	9 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	10 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
11 Patriot Day	12	13	14	15	16 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  	17
18	19 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	20	21	22 Fall begins	23 \$10.50 Meal Fish/CFS! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  	24
25 Neal Thomas Jr. ALR Memorial Ride to Bishop's Castle 	26	27 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	28	29	30	Notes:

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