



A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR AMERICAN LEGION

CENTENNIAL POST 209

"A LITTLE POST GOING PLACES AND DOING BIG THINGS"

JULY 1992

FROM THE COMMANDER (Excerpts from the American Legion Dispatch, a twice-monthly national publication)

Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Edward J. Derwinski is a hard man to read. Three months ago, he was shuttling around the country, touting the Rural Health Care Initiative, a plan that would allow rural VA medical centers to receive Medicare reimbursement for treating non-veterans. Veterans, however, who had been turned down for care at the same facilities would not be allowed to use their Medicare benefits.

Today, the secretary opposes a plan to treat veterans at VA centers and use Medicare funds to reimburse VA for any care given to veterans. National Commander, Dominic D. DiFrancesco asks why Secretary Derwinski is opposed to giving veterans the same opportunity for care that he seems so willing to extend to non-veterans under the rural health-care plan. Secretary Derwinski clearly misunderstands his role as advocate for America's veterans.

The Commander's remarks hinge on a May 28 letter sent by Derwinski to Rep. G. V. Montgomery, D-Miss, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, who recently helped usher through his committee H.R.5263, which authorizes VA to conduct a test project which would require VA to provide care to Medicare-eligible veterans. The plan also would extend care to certain military beneficiaries.

The American Legion supports the Medicare reimbursement proposal which would extend care to countless veterans who have been denied care because of VA funding shortages and stringent eligibility criteria adopted in recent years.

In his letter, Derwinski wrote: "Furthermore, it is not readily apparent which group of veterans this bill is designed to benefit. We currently care for virtually all service-connected and lower income veterans who seek care at our facilities. Nonservice-connected higher income veterans can, for the most part, afford the deductibles and copayments under the Medicare program.

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CENTENNIAL POST 209
1337 NORTH ACADEMY BLVD
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80909
719-591-2272

OFFICERS

COMMANDER	FLOYD BUFKIN
SR VICE COMMANDER	BILL WEEKS
JR VICE COMMANDER	AL CYRIAQUE
ADJUTANT	ANN FOSTER
FINANCE OFFICER	HARRY JOHNSON
SGT-AT-ARMS	AL LENDER
CHAPLAIN	TOM HABAN
HISTORIAN	
JUDGE ADVOCATE	LARRY JOHNSON
SERVICE OFFICER	TED RIDDLE
EXEC COMMITTEEMAN	NEAL THOMAS

DUES \$20.00

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	BARBARA JOHNSON
1ST VICE PRESIDENT	DOROTHY DASSERO
2ND VICE PRESIDENT	LOIS EGNOR
SECRETARY	NANCY HART
CORR SECRETARY	ALICE HART
TREASURER	IREANA CAMPBELL
HISTORIAN	NEDRA MARKETTO
CHAPLAIN	MARCIA SHELLHAMMER
SGT-AT-ARMS	COLLETTE PRICE

DUES \$12.00

MEETINGS

3RD THURSDAY 7:00 P.M.
POTLUCK DINNER 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

World War I
Apr 6, 1917 - Nov 11, 1918
World War II
Dec 7, 1941 - Dec 31, 1946
Korean War
June 25, 1950 - Jan 31, 1955
Vietnam War
Dec 22, 1961 - May 7, 1975
Granada & Lebanon
Aug 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984
Panama
Dec 20, 1989 - Jan 31, 1990
Persian Gulf
Aug 2, 1990 till end of hostilities

Editors

Dorothy Dassero
Larry Johnson

Therefore, they already have access to a wide range of health care providers.

That statement has caused many eyebrows to raise throughout the veterans' community. "The reality is that veterans whose incomes are barely above the threshold for means testing, are being turned away for care at many VA medical centers," DiFrancesco says. "And I'm sure many veterans wouldn't agree with the secretary's fantasy that they have enough disposable income to cover medicare copayments and deductible."

An ongoing Legion study of VA hospitals shows that many of the centers have been forced to shut down entire wings because they didn't have sufficient funding and staffing to provide care to veterans.

DiFrancesco says Derwinski's opposition to H.R.5263 is perplexing in other ways. "We expect that a cabinet-level officer, appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate, should at least be a defender of veterans, if not an advocate. We don't know what Mr. Derwinski stands for anymore or who he represents. He certainly doesn't represent veterans. Perhaps as history has shown, the only advocates for veterans are veterans themselves."

WHAT THE HIGH COURT SAYS: The nation's highest court believes veterans are special people and should be treated as such under the law. In a May 1983 decision that overturned a lower court ruling on the tax-exempt status of veterans' groups, then Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote: "...Veterans have been obliged to drop their

own affairs and take up the burdens of the nation, subjecting themselves to the mental and physical hazards as well as the economic and family detriments which are peculiar to military service and which do not exist in normal civil life. Our country has a long standing policy of compensating veterans for their past contributions by providing them with numerous advantages. This policy has always been deemed to be legitimate."

FROM THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

This is the month to really start pushing for membership. We are into our new American Legion year and anyone you can sign up will receive a 1993 membership card. It is also time for us to renew our membership so that we can all be "Early Birds."

Due to our efforts in the past year, we met and exceeded our membership goals. Yet, we must consider our planned goal - A NEW POST HOME - which will require many, many new members to support it. The prime time to recruit new members is NOW. With everyone's assistance, I am sure we can double our membership - ONLY ONE NEW MEMBER from each present member will meet that desired goal. Let's push for that membership goal now. Thank you!

BILL WEEKS
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

FROM THE AUXILIARY

We have just returned from Department Convention where I was honored to be a Page representing District 7. It was a fun and interesting learning experience for me. The convention was a good one with much information for the delegates to bring back to you.

The unit was awarded certificates for Membership, Foreign Relations, Music, VA&R, Chaplain's Book and the History Book.

Several of our members were recognized for their hours as a Field Service Volunteer. I am so proud of you all for making our unit outstanding.

Come to the Post and see the Auxiliary items in the showcase. These are items for you members to purchase, such as: ribbons for your pins, sun visors, coin purses, pins, etc.

Hope to see you at our July 16 meeting. It will be a potluck. And don't forget the Post Annual Picnic on August 1. Main course will be furnished by the Post. Please bring a covered dish to share with others.

BARBARA JOHNSON
PRESIDENT

RAFFLE TICKETS

By this time, you have received your raffle tickets and return envelope in the mail. It is very important for the future Post Home that we raise money. Please complete the stubs and mail them and a check promptly. The drawing will be August 1, 1992 at the Post picnic. If you need additional tickets, call me at 596-9261.

HARRY JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

PICNIC

The annual picnic will be held at Ironhorse Park on Fort Carson, August 1, 1992. We will start at 11:00 A.M. with food served at 12:30 P.M. The Post will furnish the meat, bread, drinks and condiments just as last year. We plan to serve chicken and ribs for

the adults and hamburgers or hot dogs for the children. We ask that each family attending bring a dish of salad, vegetables or dessert.

For those interested, horseshoes, mini golf, volleyball, tennis, softball or basketball will be available. The rental fee for basketball is .50 a day, tennis racquets .50 an hour, mini golf \$1.50 for adults and .75 for children per round. The batting cage is \$10.00 per hour. The Post will provide a softball kit, basketball and horseshoes. If you plan to attend, please call the post with your reservation by July 27. We have to cut off reservations on the 27th to give us time to buy the food and drinks.

HARRY JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

INSURANCE COVERAGE

Effective 1 July, 1992, the American Legion Department of Colorado will be insured by the Legion Insurance Trust Company.

Very shortly, all Legionnaires will be mailed a NEW application for the free \$1,000.00 Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance. In addition, this form must be done every year and every year, you must designate your beneficiary, sign and mail to the insurance company. Otherwise, the insurance policy will be no good.

LARRY JOHNSON
JUDGE ADVOCATE

DID YOU KNOW: that through the last year the Posts, Auxiliary units, and Departments, Eight & Forty Salons and Departmentals made total contributions of \$7,245,999 in direct aid to dependent children; made contributions to American Legion Child Welfare Foundation in the amount of \$257,770; to other welfare agencies \$15,196,273; other C&Y expenditures \$10,075,717; that the total amount of children aided was 1,964,626. Be proud!

TO POST EVERLASTING: Carl Smith and H.E. "Gym" Reese.

The American Legion Membership Application			
(Name)		(Phone)	
(Mailing Address)		(Date)	
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	(Post #)
Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below			
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20, 1989-Jan. 31, 1990 <input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 24, 1982-July 31, 1984 <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 22, 1961-May 7, 1975 <input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955 <input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7, 1941-Dec. 31, 1946 <input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917-Nov. 11, 1918		<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard	
		(Dues)	
I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.			
Signature of applicant		Name of recruiter	

Receipt of Dues (Please Print)	
From	Post #
\$	for 19
Recruiter's Name	Recruiter's Signature
Recruiter's Phone #	

1992

June 28 - August 8

1992

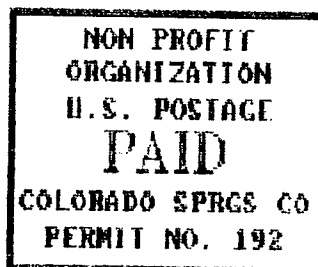
CENTENNIAL POST 209 EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
June 28 DEPT CONVENTION FT COLLINS	June 29	June 30	July 1 7:00 AM EXEC MTG 5:45 PM CIVITANS MEETING	July 2	July 3 6:00 PM BINGO REA #1 834 EMORY CIRCLE	July 4 4TH OF JULY
July 5	July 6	July 7 7:00 PM MOMS MEETING	July 8 7:00 PM GUN GUN	July 9	July 10 6:00 PM BINGO REA #1 834 EMORY CIRCLE	July 11
July 12 CO BFW FOUN- DATION TRUSTEE MTG	July 13 8:00 PM 40/8 PROMENADE POST 5	July 14	July 15 5:45 PM CIVITANS MEETING	July 16 7:00 PM GEN MBRS MEETING	July 17 6:00 PM BINGO REA #1 834 EMORY CIRCLE	July 18 9:00 AM WACS MEETING
July 19	July 20	July 21 7:00 PM MOMS MEETING	July 22	July 23 7:00 PM GUN CLUB 8 & 40 NO MEETING	July 24 6:00 PM BINGO REA #1 834 EMORY CIRCLE	July 25
July 26	July 27	July 28 7:30 PM AMVETS MEETING	July 29	July 30	July 31 6:00 PM BINGO REA #1 834 EMORY CIRCLE	Aug 1 1:00 PM ANNUAL PICNIC
Aug 2 1:00 PM DIST SEVEN MTG, POST 25 FLORENCE, CO	Aug 3	Aug 4 7:00 PM MOMS MEETING	Aug 5 7:00 AM EXEC MTG 5:45 PM CIVITANS MEETING	Aug 6	Aug 7 6:00 PM BINGO REA #1 834 EMORY CIRCLE	Aug 8

POST OPENS 11:00 AM

7/5/1992

THE AMERICAN LEGION
CENTENNIAL POST 209
1337 N.ACADEMY BLVD.
COLO SPRGS, CO 80909
TEL: 591-2272



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

