

The Centennial



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July 2018

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Lino Calica



First and foremost, I would like to thank you all for your service in the military and welcome home.

I am deeply humbled and honored to be elected as the new Commander of Neal Thomas Jr., Centennial Post 209, Department of Colorado. I will serve all of you to the best of my ability, and with the assistance of past Commanders, Officers and the support of fellow members, I will not fail. I want to extend my appreciation to the hard work and dedication of our former Legion Commander and his administration, Auxiliary President and officers, Sons of The American Legion and officers, and finally The American Legion Riders and officers. The motto of the Post was "THE LITTLE POST, GOING PLACES AND DOING BIG THINGS." Their outstanding leadership skills and the support of our members has made us the biggest Post in the state of Colorado. WELL DONE! The looming questions are, who is this new Commander? What do we know about him? Is he qualified? I would like to give a brief history of myself, where I was born and my military career. I am from the small town on the Big Island, which is also known as Hawaii. I come from a large family of 14. I am proud to say that 9 of us served in the following military branches, eight in the Army and 1 in the Air Force. At the age of 17, I joined the Army Reserves' 100 Battalion 442 Infantry Brigade as an (11B) infantry soldier and had my Boot Camp in Fort Polk, Louisiana. Then back to Hilo, Hawaii for 6 years. In 1980, I reenlisted into the active Army, trained as a Heavy Construction Repairer (62B) where I was assigned to the 65th Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks from 1980 -1983. I got orders to be reassigned to 76th HEM Company, Fort Knox, Kentucky from 1983-1985, and reassigned to HQ Detachment 4th Training Brigade to complete BNOC. After BNOC, I flew to Garmisch, Germany with my family and was assigned as NCOIC, Director of Engineer and Housing Motor Pool from 1985-1988. I received orders to CONUS and reassigned to HHC 34th Engineer Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas 1988-1991, reassigned to Pusan Korea where I departed the military in 1992 as a Sergeant. After leaving the military, I went home to Hawaii for 6 months, then relocated to Colorado Springs, CO.

In 2012, I was introduced to the American Legion through my oldest granddaughter Khianna Calica, who lives in Marysville, WA. She asked me the following question, "Do you know about The American Legion or belong to The American Legion?" My response to the questions was, "no." She continued to tell me about how the Ladies Auxiliary sponsored her to Girls State which she competed, and was selected to attend Girls Nation in Washington DC to represent Washington State. She met President Obama, while in Washington DC. Khianna also contacted me and told me that there is an American Legion Post 209. She also included the day of their meeting, breakfast and telephone number. The first two breakfasts and meetings I went to I was not greeted by anyone, so I ate in the corner. Then at the 3rd meeting, I was greeted by Ken Taylor, I decided not to join the Legion until January 2014, when I found out that Post 209 was starting a American Legion Riders Group, I attended the meeting, and to my amazement I was informed of all the other programs that the Post sponsors, especially helping Veterans get back on their feet. I wanted to be part of this group that helps other Veterans, due to the fact that my brothers, were not welcomed back from Vietnam.

My goal as your new Commander is to follow in the footsteps of past leaders, who with hard work and dedication have contributed to the growth of the little Post to the biggest Post. To be a servant to my fellow Legionnaires, members, Veterans, our community, our District, state and national. To uphold these attributes I promise to be **FAT**: **F**aithful, **A**vailable and **T**eachable. **F**aithful in attending and supporting all functions, events, and meetings to the best of my ability. **A**vailable to anyone and everyone, to give my undivided attention to the needs of our members and to listen to the best of my ability. **T**eachable, that I will learn from past and present officers, past and present members, Veterans and so forth. Everyone has something to contribute, and if you are willing to listen and learn, then knowledge, wisdom and understanding will come.



From the Unit 209 President

Cathy Barger

I am excited to start another year as your Auxiliary President. It's with great honor and pride that I have the opportunity to serve you.

Post 209 will be doing a flag disposal ceremony on July 4th at 11:00 am, followed by a potluck Barbecue. The Picnic is side dish potluck, so bring a dish large enough to provide food for you and your guest(s) and we ask that you add a little extra for others who may want to sample your offering. The Post will provide the meat. It will be hamburgers, hot dogs, with all the "fixings." It's a time to see friends, and meet new friends. I hope to see all of you there.

Editor's Note: We reached out to the Colorado Springs Fire Department for permission to hold a Flag Disposal ceremony. Because we are under a burn restriction, permission was not granted. That may change if we continue to get rain before July 4, so stay tuned.

Our next meeting, is July 14th at 10am. Plan on coming down and enjoying a warm breakfast before the meeting starts. Breakfast begins at 9am.

Kellie Hayes attended 2018 Girls State in Greeley from June 10 through June 16. I'm so amazed at all the young women that attended Girls State. We were able to send a total of 51 girls from our Unit, and a total of 60 girls from our District to participate in this year's program.

We will have the Auxiliary Girls State Dinner on July 29, 2018 at 5 p.m. at the Post.

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, let Jackie, Kellie or me know when you are available to help in any way.

In August, we have a couple things coming up, the first one is the McCandless Ice Cream Social on August 11th at 12 noon, and the second one is the Riders 2nd annual Poker Run on Saturday, August 25th. They've asked for the Auxiliary to assist with this, so please keep an eye out for more details in the August newsletter. Also, the Riders are looking for raffle and door prizes for their Poker Run, so if you have anything you'd like to donate, please get with Grady Mitchell or Steve Hayes and they will gladly take it off your hands.

Happy Birthday to Katrina Baltodano, Marion Daugherty, Sue Duckarmenn, Lillian Hagelberg, Kristi Hensley, Emma Kerr, Sydney Moneno, Emma Smith, Sharon Troelsch and Fran Worthington. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.



From the Adjutant

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

The 2019 renewal cards are out. Membership dues are still \$45. The best way to prevent getting multiple renewal notices is to send your renewal in as soon as you get it. I work hard to get your card out as soon as I get your renewal. You can pay by check, use our website through PayPal, or pay online through the national website. You can also give your renewal directly to me at the Post during any event we may be having.

We will be 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 enough for your family and 2 to 3 more. We will also 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.

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July 28th the Riders will be going out to McCandless Veterans Home (which is also Post 1919) for their annual picnic. If you haven't been out make plans to attend. It is always a great time and the food is always good. If you didn't know, Post 1919 is made up of Veterans at the home and all that anyone that is a resident has to do is say they want to be a member of the American Legion and we sign them up; it doesn't cost them anything. The District pays for the membership and the District Officers are the Post 1919 officers.



From the Sr. Vice Commander

Eric Testorff

As Senior Vice Commander, part of my job is to promote respect for, and the display of, the U.S. flag. I'm actually writing this on Flag Day, June 14th, and I hope you have your flag flying proudly today. With that in mind, I thought I would post some of the American Legion's answers to many of the myths surrounding our flag, so here goes:

Myth: A flag that has been used to cover a casket cannot be used for any other proper display purpose.

Fact: A flag that has been used to cover a casket can be used for any proper display purpose to include displaying this flag from a staff or flagpole.

Myth: The Flag Code prohibits the display of a United States flag of less than 50 stars.

Fact: According to the US Army Institute of Heraldry the US flag never becomes obsolete. Any officially approved American flag, irrespective of the number or arrangement of the stars and/or stripes may continue to be used and displayed until no longer serviceable.

Myth: The Flag Code does provide for penalties for violations of any of its provisions.

Fact: The Flag Code is simply a guideline for proper flag etiquette. The law does not provide penalties for violation of any of its provisions.

Myth: You must destroy the flag when it touches the ground.

Fact: As long as the flag remains suitable for display, the flag may continue to be displayed as a symbol of our great country.

Myth: The Flag Code prohibits the washing or dry-cleaning of the flag.

Fact: There are no provisions of the Flag Code that prohibits the washing or dry-cleaning of the flag. The decision to wash or dry-clean would of course depend upon the type of material.

Myth: There has been a change to the Flag Code that no longer requires the flag to be properly illuminated during the hours of darkness.

Fact: There has been NO CHANGE to Flag Code section 6(a), which states: "It is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed twenty-four hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness."

Myth: The mayor, town official, or the Post Commander can order the flag to be displayed at half-staff.

Fact: The gesture of placing the flag at half-staff means that the Nation or the state mourns the death of a highly regarded National or state figure, hence only the President of the United States or the Governor of the state may order the Flag to be half-staffed in accordance with Flag Code section 7(m). Those individuals and agencies that usurp authority and display the flag at half-staff on inappropriate occasions are quickly eroding the honor and reverence accorded this solemn act.

Myth: The Flag Code states that when the flag is no longer a fitting emblem for display it is to be disposed of by burning in private.

Fact: The Flag Code as revised and adopted by the Congress of the United States in 1942 has never included the word(s) "private" or "in privacy." Section 8(k) of the Flag Code states: "The flag, when it is in such a condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." Since 1937, The American Legion has promoted the use of a public flag disposal ceremony. This ceremony is a fitting tribute and an overt expression of patriotism, which enhances the public's understanding of honor and respect due the American flag.

At Post 209, we will be holding our annual July 4th potluck at Noon, preceded at 11:am by our ceremony for the honorable, and very public, disposal of unserviceable US flags. I hope you will make it a point to come, and help us pay our final respects to these worn or faded versions of Old Glory.

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QUEEN OF HEARTS PROGRESSIVE CARD RAFFLE

License # 2018-12982

CURRENT JACKPOT OVER \$1,500 - July

****MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN****

Have you heard about our Queen of Hearts Progressive Card Raffle? It's held every Friday night when there is a Post event and it's open to members only (Legionnaire, SAL, Auxiliary and Riders). Tickets are just \$1 each and you can purchase as many as you like. Tickets are placed in a roller and one ticket is drawn for the evening. The winner gets to select one card from the board and winnings are determined by the card selected. Consolation prizes range from \$5.00 to \$50.00 and if you pick the Queen of Hearts you win the Grand prize! So far, the Queen of Hearts has remained hidden but the following people have won a total \$210 in consolation prizes:

3/09/2018	Helen Rydell	\$5	2 of Spades
3/16/2018	Gary Harmon	\$30	Ace of Diamonds
3/23/2018	Marvin Weaver Jr	\$5	2 of Clubs
3/30/2018	Dennis Reed	\$5	4 of Diamonds
4/06/2018	Jackie Bowen	\$5	4 of Spades
4/13/2018	Joe Schmidt	\$50	Queen of Diamonds
4/20/2018	Helen Rydell	\$5	5 of Clubs
4/27/201	Lino Calica	\$10	7 of Clubs
5/4/2018	Rusty Bower	\$20	Jack of Diamonds
5/11/2018	Jeff Stanke	\$20	King of Spades
5/18/2018	Ron Sanchez	\$10	8 of Spades
5/25/2018	Mike Barger	\$40	Joker
6/1/2018	Joe Schmidt	\$5	4 of Hearts

Come to the Post and get in on the fun! You can have a great meal and who knows, you may be the one to pick that elusive Queen of Hearts and go home a lot richer!



Motorcycle Minute

Grady "K-Bar" Mitchell; President

We had two successful rides last month, our High Country Run and the first legs of the Pony Express Legacy Run. The High Country Run took us through some beautiful Colorado scenery, with lunch at the Shaggy Sheep in Grant, and a leisurely roll along the Tarryall River and Reservoir. I had the privilege to carry the Express Pouch on the leg from Palmer Lake to Falcon, along with some of our Riders. This year Colorado raised a little more than \$9,000, which is \$3,000 more than last year's total.

We've got a couple of rides with our ALR Brothers & Sisters this month. On the 8th, Post 2008 is holding their Pikes Peak Run, and on the 14th, Post 38 is holding their "38 Special" Poker Run. I'm expecting a good turnout for both, as they are always a lot of fun. We also have the Memorial Torch Run coming through Colorado Springs on the 25th, and staying at the Post that night. We'll provide an escort as well as host them.

Until next time, keep the rubber side down, and be safe out there.

From the Jr. Vice Commander
Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski

Good day all Legion Post 209 family members,

First off I would like to thank you all for your support for the past two years while I gave it my best shot as your Post Sergeant-at-Arms.

Secondly, we have three new MVP Collection members to celebrate!

For March 2018 we selected Lyle Hagelberg, CMSgt USAF (Ret), for April 2018 we selected Kellie Hayes and for May 2018 we selected Athena Stroud.

Please join me in congratulating these incredible folks for all they do at the Post and in support of the American Legion mission.

Their stories will be told in the next addition of the News Letter once they are interviewed.

PLEASE NOTE, there is now a "MVP Collection" nomination box available at the front counter for nominations. You can use the index cards located on the box, type it out at home and then slip it into the box or send an email to the Post email address at centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com.

PLEASE NOMINATE A DESERVING MEMBER!

The Post Executive Committee will review all the nominations and select the recipient during their meeting on the first Thursday of each month. The recipient will be recognized during the next General Membership Meeting that following Saturday. The Sergeant-at-Arms will then arrange to interview the recipient for another offering under their title in the next monthly Newsletter. This will repeat monthly ongoing!

Please become an American Legion Post 209 "MVP Collection" member...step up and help and/or nominate someone who has. Assistance is needed THROUGHOUT our efforts!

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

Thank you and please have a great month!



From SAL Squadron Commander
Stanley "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski

Good day to you American Legion Family,

As the incoming Commander of the SAL at Squadron 209 I would like to thank the outgoing Commander, Mr. Ken Taylor for his service and dedication to our SAL Squadron. There is no chance that I will be able to fill his shoes, nevertheless, I will give it my best shot. He has committed to assist me, where he can, with the Squadron's continued growth and for this I am humbly grateful!

As stated on the national Legion website;

Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires. S.A.L. members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership. Members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion Family, which has a combined membership of nearly 4.2 million.

Although Sons has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, S.A.L. is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in S.A.L.

He is my first plea, as we head into a new recruitment season, for all current male Legion Post 209 members to consider acquiring dual membership. Also, to share with your children and grand children the opportunity for membership. Together we can take our SAL Squadron to new heights!

Thank you, again, for this opportunity to serve.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



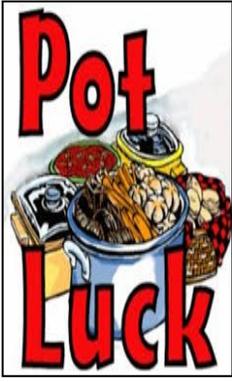
WALK OF HONOR

Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

If you've attended our meetings over the past year, 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 \$90 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 \$250 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.



**Happy Independence Day!
Let's Have a Picnic!**



**Join us for a Picnic on the
4th of July!**

**We will provide the Burgers and
Dogs**

**You bring a side dish for you and
your family/guests plus 3-4 more**

The Fun starts at 12:00noon



From the Historian

Art Carney

On May 12, 2018, our National Commander, Ms. Denise Rohan installed Legionnaire officers from District 7 and Post 209. She also presented Basic Training Certificates to 33 Legionnaires from Posts 38, 209, 1948, and 2008 who attended our inaugural Colorado Legion College training.

National and Department Legion family officers attending and in some cases presiding over Installation were;

- Denise Rohan - National Commander
- Terri Clinton - Department Commander
- Robb Smith - Department Sr. Vice Commander
- Dean Noechel - Department Jr. Vice Commander
- Tom Florez - National Executive Committeeman
- Jay Bowen - Alternate National Executive Committeeman
- Jerry Lollar - Department Asst. Sergeant-at-Arms
- Chip Kossow - District 7 Commander
- Ann Ritacco - Department Auxiliary President

Installed Officers for District 7 were;

- Mike Barger – Commander
- Marvin Weaver Jr – Senior Vice Commander
- Denise Cook – Junior Vice Commander
- Desiree Guerra – Finance
- Marvin Weaver Sr. – Adjutant
- Joe Schmidt – Historian
- Patrick Bedford – Chaplain
- Chip Kossow – Judge Advocate

Installed Officers for Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 were;

- Lino Calica – Commander
- Eric Testorff – Senior Vice Commander
- Stan Krasinski – Junior Vice Commander
- Marvin Weaver Jr – Adjutant
- Rusty Bower – Finance
- Art Carter – Historian
- Joe Schmidt – Sergeant-at-Arms
- Bill Burd – Post Executive Committeeman
- Paul Darrow – Chaplain
- Marvin Weaver Sr. – Judge Advocate
- Lyle Hagelberg – Service Officer.

Officers of Unit 209 Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion were also Installed.

A Pre-Ceremony Dinner was prepared and served by Legionnaires and Auxiliary Volunteers. Many thanks to Art Kimbrel, Jackie Bowen, Kellie Hayes, Cathy Barger, Rose Lowe, and Pat Weaver. Thanks also to all the volunteers who helped set-up, clean-up, and break-down of the Post.



Rusty Bower's column to bring a little "salt" to the Post.

Origin of NAVY Terminology **Rusty Bower**



CARRY ON:

In the days of sail, the officer of the deck kept a weather eye constantly on the slightest change in wind so sail could be reefed or added as necessary to ensure the fastest headway. Whenever a good breeze came along, the order to "carry on" would be given. It meant to hoist every bit of canvas the yards could carry. Pity the poor sailor whose weather eye failed him and the ship was caught partially reefed when a good breeze arrived.

Through the centuries the term's connotation has changed somewhat. Today, the Navy Bluejacket Manual defines "carry on" as an order to resume work: work not so grueling as two centuries ago.

**Khianna Calica, WA State Girls Nation Delegate '12
(Granddaughter of Commander Lino Calica)**

The Neal Thomas, Jr. Centennial Post 209 Annual Installation Ceremony:

Creating Generational Love in Three Ways

In the current digital age, navigating personal connectivity has become pressingly difficult. As an old soul in a young body, I have watched as my fellow twenty-something year old peers struggle to make connection with people our own age. Needless to say you can imagine the lack of connectivity and communication that occurs cross-generationally.

On the weekend of 12 May 2018 my Spirit was warmed as I watched such communication barriers melt away during the Post 209 Annual Installation Ceremony. As I was in a hall full of Legionnaires and their families, I could not help but be overwhelmed with immense pride and gratitude for the American Legion and Auxiliary. By the end of the evening I noticed three ways Colorado Post 209 is creating generational love within its community:

Age is but a number, and heart is but a binder. Present at the event were Sons of The American Legion. Members of Squadron 209 included many young boys lending support to the event in several ways. Whether it was acting as escorts during the Auxiliary-Installation portion of the ceremony, or playing the 'clean-up crew,' these young men were eager to serve. It is in these moments where hearts of service are cultivated; where the community is not binded or defined by the age of their future leaders, but by their hearts.

Merit knows no gender. In attendance was the honorable National Commander, Denise Rohan, as well as her lovely aide and husband, Mike. Elected 24 August 2017 as the first female National Commander, Commander Rohan's presence sealed the Installation ceremony as a living marker of history. When we as an organization embrace merit that is not confined by gender, we subsequently create a stronger foundation and guiding principles for our future leaders. This sets a precedent of love, appreciation, and undying camaraderie to be communicated to future generations.

Family First. Following the Commander's initiative to place families at the center of her platform, I can personally say that Colorado Post 209, and the organization in its entirety is a place to nurture families. In 2012, I had the privilege of attending the Evergreen Girls State Program in Washington State. Humbly, my State experience then evolved to attend Girls Nation. The combination of these building experiences changed the entire trajectory of my lived experience. My experience had such a profound impact on me that I convinced my Papa to join. I will never forget trying to give him the meeting times, dates, and locations only to find the the Post was a two minute drive away! 6 years after his first meeting, I had the privilege of watching my Papa, Lino Calica, be installed as the Post Commander. It was in watching his Installation that I saw the love of the American Legion and Auxiliary runs deep generationally - in a way that can only be communicated through feeling.

I can only hope that as our world continues to evolve, we never forget the history that is communicated through tradition.

Much thanks and Aloha to The Neal Thomas, Jr. Centennial Post 209!

Bringing a Little South to the West

Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

July meant two things to me growing up; 4th of July celebration, and enjoying the summer vacation. Well, I enjoyed as many summer vacations as I could, except for the year I spent in Summer School (see last month's article), and when we weren't chopping cotton at my grandparents' farms in Arkansas.

Back in the day, there were two times a year Memphis had a big fireworks display; the start of the "Memphis in May" festival month, and on the 4th of July. Both occurred on the Mississippi river along the Memphis skyline. There's a street called Riverside Drive that runs about 2 miles along the river and bordering downtown. Cars would line the street, parked along the side of the road to catch the fireworks. We were no different. Dad and Mom would load up the Chevy Station Wagon (it seems Dad always had a Chevy Station Wagon when we were growing up), all four of us kids and we'd head to Riverside Drive.

You had to get there early if you wanted a good spot. Often, we'd even take a picnic and eat a sandwich while waiting for it to get dark enough to start the fireworks. After the engine cooled down, we'd sit or lay down on the hood of the car and even climb up on top. In those days you could do that and not worry about denting anything. My Dad's '58 Chevy was built like a tank and could easily support our slender bodies.

When the fireworks started, it was always as if seeing them for the first time. The sparkling reds, whites, blues, and greens against the night sky was like an artist's painting. And sprinkled among the fireworks were Lightening Bugs (or Fireflies if you're a Yankee) dancing in the air around us. We would occasionally catch them and either put them in a jar or wait until they lit up and we would twist off their lighted tail and stick them on our shirts. Today, that seems gross and we would probably be reported to the ASPCA, but back then it was like having rhinestones on your clothes, at least for a short while. I guess if you want to call it karma, sometimes we would mistake a Blister Bug for a Lightening Bug because they did look similar, but you learned the difference very quickly.

As mentioned, we also spent the July summers chopping cotton in Arkansas. We would earn \$5 per day chopping cotton from sunup to sundown, Monday through Friday (I wrote about my cotton chopping experiences in more detail in the October 2014 Newsletter. If you're interested in reading about the worst job I ever had just go to our Post website and you can read the article). Anyway, we would swap off spending a week with both sets of grandparents, even though they normally only lived about 10 miles apart. On Saturday, whichever grandparent we were staying with that week would take us to Wynne, the big town not far from the family farm. There, we would blow our hard earned \$25 on junk at the Ben Franklin 5 and Dime. On Sunday, if we were staying with my Mom's parents, we went to church at the Feltner Assembly of God, just outside Cherry Valley. If that happened, part of our money was saved for the offering plate.

At some point during our summer vacation (unless I was in Summer School), Dad would take his annual vacation and we'd load up the car and take off on a camping trip. More often than not, we would spend the week either at Bull Shoals, Greer's Ferry, or Norfork Lake in north central Arkansas. There were a few vacations we would go further west to Big Bend in southwest Texas or into the Black Hills of South Dakota. Whichever, it was always a camping trip. I don't recall ever going on a family vacation on which we stayed at a hotel. They were way too expensive for our family budget. But you know what, we never missed staying in a hotel because we never stayed in one. I guess the old adage is true, you can't miss what you never had.

It didn't matter whether we were in Texas, one of the Dakotas' or at a lake in Arkansas, we had a great time learning how to set up and strike a tent, cooking freshly caught Bass or Catfish over an open fire, and hiking through the woods. We learned how to recognize Poison Ivy, how to tell which way was north (without a compass), and which wild berries were good (read that to mean non-poisonous). Looking back, these vacations were very cheap if we're talking about dollars and cents, but priceless when considering the quality family time we spent together. There were no cell phones nor video games to distract us. We would sit around the campfire at night and talk while roasting marshmallows and hot dogs over the open fire.

After camping with a couple hundred of my closest friends during my 20 year Army career, I lost my great love affair for camping. But I really miss the family vacations when the biggest distraction was listening to the owls and bob whites.



Post Officers 2018-2019

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Sr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Jr. Vice Cdr	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasin-ski	719-359-6356
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Paul R. Darrow	719-237-4461
Sergeant-at-Arms	Joe Schmidt	651-328-9029
Historian	Art Carter	
Post Exec. Cmtee	Bill Burd	719-330-1279
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Marvin Weaver, Sr.	719-638-4763
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2018-2019

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Grady Mitchell	719-201-3353
Vice President	Marvin Palmer	719-287-7047
Secretary	Amy Mitchell	719-321-8291
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Tim McDowell	719-510-9907
Road Captain	John Hanchek	719-648-5415



Auxiliary Officers 2018-2019

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Vice President	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073
Secretary	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Jackie Burd	719-590-6615
Sergeant-At-Arms	Kris Floyd	719-308-2150
Historian	Nancy LaFayette	719-594-6806



Sons of The American Legion 2018-2019

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-373-7814
Vice Commander	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Adjutant	Steve P. Cox	970-580-8191
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stanten Krasinski	719-359-6356
Chaplain	Shelten Krasinski	719-359-6356
Historian	Trystan Cline	
Squadron Advisor	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047

Calendar of Events

July

- 4th; Happy Independence Day! Post Picnic, 12:00pm
- 5th; Post Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
- 6th; Hamdogger (no RSVP Required), 6:00pm (**Price varies**)
- 13th; ALR Dinner, (**RSVP Required!**) 6:00pm (**\$9.00**)
- 14th; Breakfast, 9:00am
- 14th; Legion/Aux. General Membership Meeting, 10:00am
- 16th; ALR Executive Board Meeting, 6:00pm
- 18th; Fundraising Committee Meeting, 7:00pm
- 20th; Steak Night (**RSVP Required!**), 6:00pm (**\$14.50**)
- 24th; ALR Monthly Meeting, 6:30pm, Social Hour, 5:30pm
- 27th; Chef's Choice (**RSVP Required**), 6:00pm
- 28th; Healing Warriors, 9:00am

August

- 2nd; Post Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
- 3rd; Hamdogger (no RSVP Required), 6:00pm (**Price varies**)
- 10th; Auxiliary Dinner, (**RSVP Required!**) 6:00pm (**\$9.00**)
- 11th; Breakfast, 9:00am
- 11th; Legion/Aux. General Membership Meeting, 10:00am
- 11th; Ice Cream Social, McCandless Veterans' Home, 2:00pm
- 16th; Fundraising Committee Meeting, 7:00pm
- 17th; Steak Night (**RSVP Required!**), 6:00pm (**\$14.50**)
- 20th; ALR Executive Board Meeting, 6:00pm

August (cont.)

- 24th; Chef's Choice (**RSVP Required**), 6:00pm
- 25th; Healing Warriors, 9:00am
- 28th; ALR Monthly Meeting, 6:30pm, Social Hour, 5:30pm

September

- 6th; Post Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
- 8th; Breakfast, 9:00am
- 8th; Legion/Aux. General Membership Meeting, 10:00am
- 13th; Young Guns, 6:30pm
- 14th; ALR Dinner, (**RSVP Required!**) 6:00pm (**\$9.00**)
- 19th; Marksmanship Training, 6:30pm
- 20th; Young Guns, 6:30pm
- 20th; Fundraising Committee Meeting, 7:00pm
- 21th; Steak Night (**RSVP Required!**), 6:00pm (**\$14.50**)
- 22nd; Healing Warriors, 9:00am
- 25th; ALR Monthly Meeting, 6:30pm, Social Hour, 5:30pm
- 26th; Marksmanship Training, 6:30pm
- 27th; Young Guns, 6:30pm
- 28th; Chef's Choice (**RSVP Required**), 6:00pm



Happy Independence Day!

**Proudly Fly your
Flag on 4 July!**