



The Centennial

Volume XIII

Edition 7

July 2022

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209



Photo credit: Valerie Stephens May 30, 2022. Memorial Day ceremony at Pikes Peak National Cemetery

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3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917
719.599.8624

www.legion209.org

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



The American Legion Post 209 Officers 2022-2023

Commander:	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
Adjutant:	Doug Millison	(719) 599-8624
Sr. Vice Commander:	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
Jr. Vice Commander:	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
Honor Guard/Fin Officer:	Joel Haas	(719) 482-4496
Service Officer:	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
Judge Advocate:	Marvin Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Historian:	Kurt Skinner	(719) 963-3517
Exec. Cmtman/Club Mgr:	Art Kimbrel	(719) 339-4610
Chaplain:	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
Immediate Past CDR:	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2022-2023

President:	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
Vice President:	Cathy Barger	(719) 290-3163
Secretary:	Pat Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Treasurer:	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
Chaplain:	Mary Bramer	(719) 633-8612
Exec.-at-Large:	Jackie Bowen	(901) 481-0673
Historian:	Sarah Tobin	(719) 439-7724
Sgt-at-Arms:	Michelle Bresee	



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2022-2023

Commander:	Rob Barry	
Adjutant & Finance Officer:	Ken Taylor	(719) 461-4047
Sr. Vice Commander:	Rob Barry	(719) 930-5725
Chaplain:	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
Jr. Vice Commander:	Daxton Attarian	
Sgt-at-Arms:	Bob Ingram	(480) 353-8234



American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2022-2023

President:	Ed Santos	(719) 329-4357
Vice President:	Jerry "Rico" Shay	(719) 244-3901
Secretary:	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
Treasurer:	Scott Laudan	(719) 238-2679
Sgt-at-Arms:	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775
Road Captain:	Sean Cope	(719) 246-4820
Historian:	Tina Cope	
Communications:	Gary Asp	(719) 822-3270



American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) Officers

President:	George Johnson	(910) 494-9768	KE0ALQ
Vice President:	Vacant		
Trustee & Secretary:	Harvey LeCato		W1JU
Treasurer:	Henry Russell J		KC0NAJ



From the desk and mind of the Commander

Since joining The Legion, July has been a month I look forward to with excitement and dread. Excitement because we start the new year with The Legion that brings new officers (along with their ideas), and dread because it also activates the new membership year. The start of the membership year is not bad; it reminds me of when I was the Post Adjutant and would have about 300 – 400 memberships to process.

Another exciting thing about July is, of course, July 4th, Independence Day. I have always enjoyed July 4th since I was a kid. Some of my favorite memories of family time and fireworks. Our family would always barbecue and then go wherever to watch or shoot off fireworks. When we lived in Alamogordo, New Mexico, we would typically meet up with some of Dad's friends from work and have a barbecue. The kids would eat and play games all day, then go to the drive-in theater to watch the fireworks at night.

When Dad transferred to Washington D.C., our celebration changed a little but always involved a barbeque. With D.C. being so populated, we did not have a lot of options to go and see fireworks shows without A LOT of people also being there. My favorite July 4th in D.C. (not my parents) was after my junior year of high school. The leaders from my Sunday School class at church organized a group of us to go up into D.C. for the parade. It ended up being the leaders, their kids, another girl, and myself. We watched the parade and then decided to wait and let the crowd dissipate before heading back. So, we ended up staying for the fireworks show that night. Watching fireworks with the Washington Monument in front adds a new dimension to the celebration.

When I joined the Navy, the tradition continued. I would go to a barbecue with my shipmates; then, we would watch fireworks usually shot out over the ocean. In 1992 my ship was in the yards at Metro Machine in Norfolk, VA. They always celebrated at Town Point Park, followed by fireworks over the river. Our ship was the staging and launching point for the fireworks that year, shooting them off from the flight deck.

This year the Post will continue our tradition by hosting a barbecue. The Post will provide the meat. The sides and dessert will be a potluck, so bring enough for your family plus 2 or 3 more people. We will start at 11:00 am until no one is still hanging out. Make sure to pick from one of the many places in and around town to watch a fireworks show to finish out celebrating the 4th of July.

Once again, I thank you for all you do to help veterans and the Post.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





From the desk of the Sr. Vice Commander

The new membership year has started!!! Please take a moment and send in your dues for renewal. The cost is \$45, and we have several ways to accomplish this. You can:

- mail them to the Post (American Legion Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917)
- go to our website using PayPal (https://www.legion209.org/officers/renew_legion.shtml);
- go to the National website (<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew#legion-org>), or
- just come out for one of the dinners this month and give your renewal to our new Adjutant Doug Millison directly.

Membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion and essential to our support of the four pillars:

- Caring for our Veterans,
- Advocating for a strong national defense,
- Promoting Americanism and
- Supporting our youth.

We all joined for a reason. For some, it was to continue the camaraderie we experienced in the military. For others, it was to help our fellow veterans. This is also a great time to return to your roots regarding why you are a Legionnaire. So, what is the reason you joined the Legion? Are you still connected with that source of motivation? This is a great time to refresh that energy and your involvement in the mission of the American Legion.

Finally - As we start this new Legion year, reach out to your friends and neighbors if they are Veterans or descendants of Veterans. Tell them why you joined and share The Legion story with them. If you need help with what to say, remember: We Believe in God and Country. We believe in taking care of veterans. We believe in a strong national defense. We believe in Americanism. We believe in taking care of our youth. If this is something you also believe in, you should join The American Legion and continue to serve this great nation!

Steve Hayes
Senior Vice Commander





From the desk of the Jr. Vice Commander

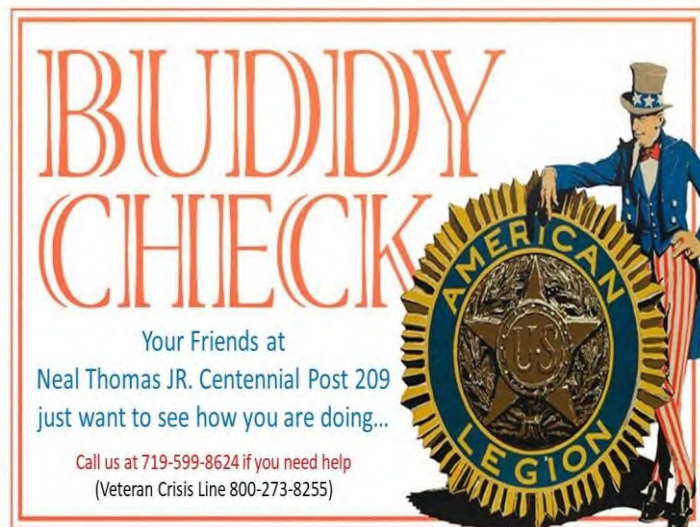
Well, another month is gone. It seems as though I just wrote my last article. Time flies by when you are having fun. This is my first article as the newly elected Jr. Vice Commander. Doug Millison was elected to serve as our Post Adjutant. I believe Doug will make a terrific Adjutant. Please give him the support that you gave me. Remember, all of us on the Executive Committee are there for you, the members of Post 209.

Don't forget the July 4th picnic at the Post. We will provide the burgers and hotdogs. You will need to bring a side dish for your family and a couple of friends.

The Department Convention (<http://coloradolegion.org/department-convention/>) is from June 30 thru July 3rd, held at the Crowne Plaza hotel near I-70 and Chambers Road in Denver (15500 E 40th Ave, Denver, CO, 80239). The fun kicks off at 9:00 am Friday and continues through Sunday.

It's What We Do!

Jerry Hopper
Jr Vice Commander





From our Post Adjutant

I want to start by saying thank you to those who have renewed, joined, or transferred into Post 209. The trust you have placed in us to accomplish the mission that you see as “being” The American Legion is well placed. We are the largest and, as far as I can see, the most active and involved Post in Colorado. “WE” is the operational term as WE work as a team to fulfill our goals of supporting veterans and service members and serving the community. Welcome back, welcome aboard.

As the new Adjutant, I am here for you. To assist in membership issues, answer questions, and lend a hand in your committee and projects. The beginning of the renewal season is upon us, which will keep me in the office a lot, but I will be working remotely for the most part as much as possible after that (have you seen the gas prices?). However, you can find me in the office regularly on Tuesdays from 0900 to 1500 unless posted otherwise, and I will set a few more times starting next month. So come on down, say hi.

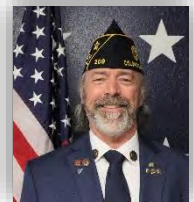
Speaking of renewals, National will be sending out the first renewal notices for 2023 soon. PLEASE respond to the first one. The more we spend on printing and mailing, the less time we have to dedicate to our programs and charities.

The cost is \$45, and we have several ways to accomplish this. You can:

- mail them to the Post (American Legion Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917)
- go to our website using PayPal
(https://www.legion209.org/officers/renew_legion.shtml)
- go to the National website
(<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew#legion-org>), or
- just come out for one of the dinners this month and give your renewal to me directly.

I will discuss ways to renew and keep your membership active later. But you won’t need it later, will you? You’ll already have submitted your renewal...

Doug Millison
Adjutant
"Always Forward"



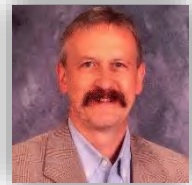


From our Post Historian

Hello, Post 209 Family! My name is Kurt Skinner, and I'm honored to serve you as Post Historian. I taught high school social studies for ten years after retiring from the Air Force in 2010 and am now researching my first book on Teddy Roosevelt and his Rough Rider regiment as comrades after the war. I only recently joined The American Legion and regret it took me so long to get here, but I'm all in with our mission! In addition to my new role as Post Historian, I also participate in our Honor Guard and Boys State program.

I'm looking forward to working with you all as I document the tremendous work The American Legion Post 209 family is doing to promote 100% Americanism and to serve the needs of veterans and our community.

Kurt Skinner
Historian

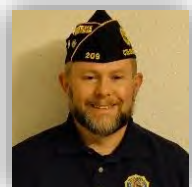


From the desk of our Finance Officer

The beginning of the new fiscal year means it is time for the annual Post Finance audit and the start of a new budget year. The preparation for the audit will be close to complete when this article is being read. The audit results will be reported once it has been completed and briefed to the Post Executive Committee. I should also have the 2022-2023 budget close to completion based on the 2021-2022 expenses. As always, the budget is available for review at any time. Any ideas you may have to help with the budget are both welcome and needed. Just like everyone else, we are experiencing increases in our expenses.

As stated in last month's article, with the beginning of the new Fiscal Year starting July 1, it is time to start thinking about new ideas for fundraisers. The income for Post 209 comes from fundraisers and donations; this is how we keep the Post running and support our programs. We need some new and/or unconventional ideas for fundraisers, both within the Post and that can be extended out into the community. Any idea is worth consideration, so do not feel your idea is not something good enough to try. It is amazing how some of the silliest ideas turn into huge successes. So please forward me your ideas so I can get them in front of the Executive Committee for consideration (and hopefully implementation). A little note to add here is that we will need your help with implementing your new idea if it is decided to move forward with it, especially if the idea is something you have done before.

Joel W. Haas
Post Finance Officer





From our Honor Guard Captain

Last month's newsletter shows the Honor Guard participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony at Pikes Peak National Cemetery. We had the honor of performing a 3-volley rifle salute in coordination with the gun (cannon) salute. National posted an article on their [website](#).

I decided to start something new to begin the new Legion year. I would like you to ask yourself, "What do I know about my Post's Honor Guard?" You might come up with things like our support for final honors and community events. For example, did you know the Honor Guard's current veteran composition is 8 Army, 0 Marines, 2 Navy, 7 Air Force, and 0 Coast Guard? Did you know there is also 1 ALA member and 1 SAL member? Even as the captain, I know little about each of the members. So, I decided to have one or two members provide information and write something about themselves each month for the newsletter. This way, we learn something new about the members. So, I figured it would make the most sense to start with myself.

Even though the Honor Guard has continued to gain new members, there is no such thing as having too many members. To participate, attend a training meeting (meetings are scheduled every week, check the calendar). Members of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary are eligible. If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please contact me at (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org.

Meet the Honor Guard:

Name: Joel Haas

Branch of Service: Army

Dates Served: 2/2/1994-8/1/2003

Honor Guard Member Since: Aug 2019

Location on 9/11/2001: National Security Agency on Ft. Meade, MD

Something About me: I spent four years in Air Force Junior ROTC in high school, active in Color Guard, Rifle Team, and Drill Team. AFJROTC OH-861 was the unit to beat at drill competitions across the state of Ohio. This is where I began to learn that motivation, dedication, discipline, and attention to detail could help me later in life. The two years after high school I was a member of the Civil Air Patrol where I taught cadets the skills needed to increase the unit's preparedness of search and rescue operations. After HS I joined the military, it made the most sense based on the previous six years of my life (it would also get me a real job and out of Ohio). Now you are probably wondering why I joined the Army given my Air Force experience. It is actually a simple answer: the Air Force wanted me to go in on a general enlistment. Nope! I was not going in without a guaranteed job so I followed my Dad and older half-brother by going into the Army, eventually serving nine and a half years.

Joel W. Haas
Honor Guard Captain





From the Chaplain: “Americanism” Revisited

“True Americanism is practical idealism. Its aims, instead of being materialistic and mechanical, are idealistic to the point of being Utopian. In this way, the United States can provide and express ideals that strike a chord in humans everywhere – a declaration of independence on behalf of all the peoples of the world.” - Maurice Saatchi

It didn’t come easy. Our Declaration of Independence came about only after a series of legitimate complaints were rebuffed by the King of England, who eventually refused to even meet with the American colonists. If we were free to make our laws and decisions without being governed by another person or country, we would have to fight for it.

Terms of enlistment in the Continental Army lasted one year, from 1775-1776, ending in December. The following year, Congress mandated that enlisted men must sign on for three years or the duration of the conflict, whichever came first. The conflict would go on until 1783.

As the seasons passed, meat and vegetables became scarce. Dr. Albigen Waldo, a Continental Army surgeon, later reported that many men survived largely on a handful of chestnuts and “fire cakes” (flour and water baked over coals). The officers lived in rough, wooden huts with poor ventilation. The enlisted soldiers lived in 7’ x 7’ tents (seven to a tent) or crude “brush huts”. The constant presence of smoke was a problem. More soldiers died of disease than from battle. Surgery was primitive; infection was rampant. Of the 12,000 men at Valley Forge, one-third of them were unfit for duty. There were shortages of just about everything: money, weapons, food, clothing, clean water, and shelter.

Dr. Waldo wrote in his journal: *“December 15 - Quiet...Mankind is never truly thankful for the benefits of life until they have experienc'd the want of them. The Man who has seen misery knows best how to enjoy good...”*

What kept them going? These ragged soldiers, as young as 15 and old as 60, never stopped thinking about their country and why they were fighting. This hope was a big factor in winning the war. Without that dedication, we would not be where we are today in America.

We have the latitude to worship as we please. It is common for Americans to share the same religion as their parents and grandparents. But whether someone is Christian, Jewish, Muslim, some other faith, or of no faith, we must have the freedom to choose our beliefs –freedom purchased with the blood of patriots. Our values are enumerated in our Constitution and symbolized by our flag, an emblem so revered, she is regarded as a “living thing.” May this great nation cherish and defend our independence, hope, and opportunity.

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love, serve one another.” John 8:31

Brad Henderson
Chaplain





From the desk of the Unit President

Happy July!

June was a very busy month for the Auxiliary. We had a successful "in-person" ALA CO Girls State session this year with 6 Auxiliary members attending in various roles.

July is the month for our new officers to step fully into their new roles for the Auxiliary. We are excited to welcome all returning & new officers as we continue doing what our Unit does best. Once again, I am asking all members if there is something you would like our Unit to try to get involved with; please let us know. We are always looking to do more for our Veterans & our community.

Happy birthday to the following members born in July: Marion Daugherty, Lillane Hagelberg, Kristi Hensley, Sharon Troelsch, Barbara Westerhouse, Fran Worthington, Kallee Dreiling, Emma Smith.

Royce Hopper
Unit President



Our Mission

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Our Impact:

We are one of the nation's most prominent supporters of veterans, military, and their families. We help to advance the mission of The American Legion. From helping to draft the GI Bill in 1944 to advocating for veterans on Capitol Hill, the nonpartisan American Legion Family is instrumental in advancing legislation that improves the quality of life for our nation's veterans and servicemembers.



From our SAL Commander

First, I'd like to thank everyone who has placed their trust in me to hold the position of Commander of the Sons of The American Legion 209 Squadron. It is not a position I hold lightly, and I will treat it with the utmost respect.

For those of you that don't know me, I have been active in the Post for the past few years. I started as a member of the SAL, moved to the Riders, where I was very active, and have now had the honor of becoming an Auxiliary member. I have spent the past year as the Sr. Vice for the SAL and have had the opportunity to lead under our outgoing Commander Brian Wess. He has shown such strength as a leader throughout the tough times of COVID and leadership changes. Please join me in recognizing and thanking him for all he has done.

I have spent the last 24 years with the Colorado Springs Fire Department holding various positions. I had the opportunity to retire and move on with the next chapter of life. I am excited to have the SAL, the Post, and most importantly, the woman in my life, Sarah, to be a significant part of this chapter.

I met with the Legion and Auxiliary officers and am very excited about the coming year for the Post. We have outstanding leadership with very high expectations for the year to come. Additionally, we have a leadership group within the SAL with great energy and plan on making the most out of this year.

With the slowing of the COVID epidemic, the most important thing I would ask is if you can please try to participate in our events. This year is going to be a busy one, and I will request that we are more visible and active than in the past. We have the opportunity to make an impact with the Legion and the community as a whole. My goal is that we will be the best we have ever been. But we need active participants to make this happen.

We will start ramping up this year soon. I ask that you keep an eye on our [Facebook page](#), the [Legion website](#), and most importantly, come to our meetings. This will keep you involved and informed.

Again, it is a great honor to be your Commander, and I look forward to making this year a great one.

Take care and stay safe.

Rob Barry
Commander SAL 209



From The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC)

Your American Legion Amateur Radio Club: Devoted to the Hobby and Art of Amateur Radio
and Promoting the American Legion

FOR ALL YOU EXISTING HAMS OUT THERE ----- The Legion ARC will now have a standing membership meeting on the 2nd Thursday every month. 1900hrs.

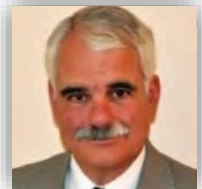
What is Ham Radio?

Amateur Radio (ham radio) is a popular hobby and service that brings people, electronics, and communication together. People use ham radio to talk across town, worldwide, or even into space without the Internet or cell phones.

If you are interested in learning about this intriguing hobby or participating in Legion 209 radio club events, call, email, or text me.

Harvey LeCato

TALARC Secretary
719-331-1212
mbca@comcast.net
W I J U



UPCOMING EVENTS

4th of July Picnic

Join us for our annual Independence Day cookout. We will crank up the grills at 11:00am. The Post will provide Hamburgers and Hot Dogs, along with the condiments for both. We ask you to bring your favorite side dish large enough for your family and guests, as well as a little more for others to possibly sample. There is no cost to our Post members, their family, and invited guests.

The American Legion 100 Miles for Hope



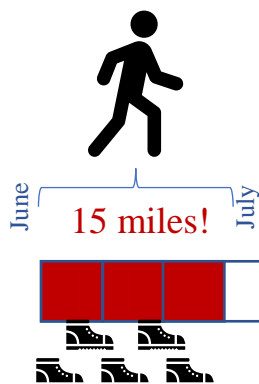
Come join us for a Group Walk!

Members of the Post 209 American Legion Family will be conducting walks from the Post into Palmer twice a month through the summer, with an option to gather at a local restaurant afterward for an “on your own” lunch. We will start with short distances and work up. Watch the calendar, this newsletter, and our Facebook page for details. We may try other spaces or parks in the future.

Everyone is welcome to join us, whether you are participating in the [100 Miles for Hope Challenge](#) or not. Bring the spouse, kids, and grandkids. It’s time spent outdoors together.

Our walks will be:

- July 10th and 23rd
- **We start from the Post and depart promptly-ish at 1000 hrs**
- **We hope to see you there!**



76th National Navy Seabee Veterans of America Convention and Reunion



AUGUST 24-28, 2022
COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO
Last day to Register
July 15 2022



The registration and information can be found here:

<https://nsva.org/pdf/Events/2022%20National%20Convention/22%20conven%20hotel%20Reg%20forms.pdf>

For more information on the Guest Speaker, how to advertise in the Convention Book, and things to do in Colorado Springs, see the Navy Seabee Veterans of America website: <https://nsva.org/>

Agenda:

8/24: Pre-Convention, The Academy Hotel, Colorado Springs, CO time TBD

Registration and Hospitality suite open at 2:00 pm

8/25: NSVA and NSVAA Pre-Convention meeting

- Meetings begin at 9:00 am
- Committee meetings to follow
- Registration and Hospitality suite open at 12:00 pm
- Navy Seabee Monument dedication at Pikes Peak National Cemetery at 2:00 pm (Transportation provided)

8/26: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm NSVA and NSVAA Main Body meetings, post-convention meeting, and Memorial service practice Registration and Hospitality suite open at 2:00 pm

8/27: Memorial service 9:00 am to 10:00 am

- Registration and Hospitality suite open at 12:00 pm
- Admiral Reception at 5:30 pm
- Dinner Seating at 6:00 pm

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

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

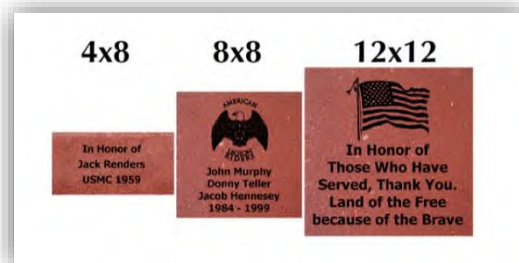
*Additional cost may apply

FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

Walk of Honor



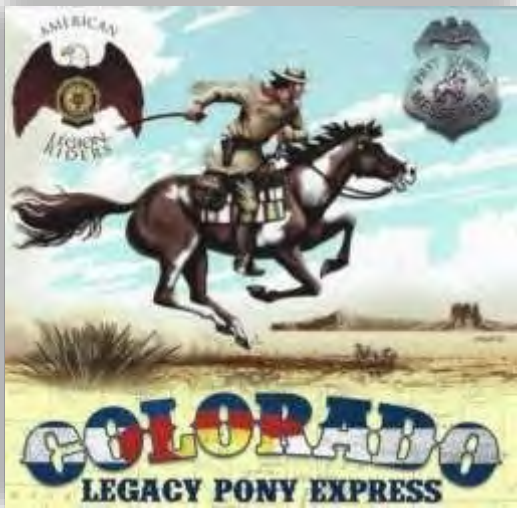
- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style and lettering desired but typically range from \$90 to \$200 depending on size.
- **What are the costs for the corporate/veteran supporter bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$250 to \$500.
- **What is the difference between individual and corporate bricks?** Individual bricks are for veterans and family members of veterans 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 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. 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 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. 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 only to sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project.
- **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 project. If you buy multiple bricks, let our Adjutant know, and we will ensure they are all placed together.

Legacy Scholarship Pony Express Run

Support the Children of our Disabled and Fallen by contributing to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship. Eligible recipients include the children of U.S. military members who died while on active duty on or after 11 September 2001 and children of post -9/11 veterans having been assigned a combined disability rating of 50 percent or greater by the Department of Veterans Affairs qualify. The American Legion Legacy Scholarship helps ensure higher education is possible for children who lost a parent to death on active duty or suffered a service-connected disability rated 50 percent or greater by V.A. since the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001.



Colorado American Legion Post families across the state engage in fundraising efforts or contribute to the 2022 fundraising effort in conjunction with their program during the year. The donations received are consolidated at various relay stations across the state.

On 6 August 2022, Colorado American Legion Riders will conduct the statewide Pony Express run, riding one of the designated routes to collect donations from the relay stations. All routes will reach a central collection point in the afternoon for a campaign celebration and good old-fashioned fun.

If you're interested in participating or donating contact:

American Legion Riders
Department of Colorado
7465 E 1st Ave D,
Denver, CO 80230
Phone: 719 -494 -7166
Email: coloradolegionriders@gmail.com
Web: <https://alrco.org>

August 6th



GUEST COMMENTARY



A Note from the Editor

I know summer just got here, but before too much time slips by, I want to share the best military deal I have come across, the Epic Military Ski Passes.

I tell all my military contacts about it. If you think you may go skiing just one day next year, it is worth looking into. Prices go up throughout the year.

I went skiing with an out-of-town friend in March; she had to pay \$200 for a day pass to Breckenridge. But, on the other hand, I used my season pass that is good for multiple resorts (in and out of state) with no blackout dates, which was purchased the year before for around the same rate as the 22/23 season pass, \$149. Great Deal!

If you are wondering why they offer such a great deal, I encourage you to learn about the rich history of the Army's 10th Mountain Division and how the original soldiers of the 10th MTN helped establish Colorado's ski industry.

2022/23 Season Passes		
MILITARY PASSES	Resorts:	Compared to:
Active Duty & Dependents - \$149	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vail, CO - Beaver Creek, CO - Breckenridge, CO - Keystone, CO - Park City, UT - Crested Butte, CO - And out-of-state resorts 	Epic Pass - \$859
Retired & Dependents - \$149		
Veteran & Dependents - \$490		
Liberty Pass (Active, retired, & veteran) - \$262	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keystone, CO 	Keystone Plus Pass - \$345

For more information: <https://www.epicpass.com/pass-results/military.aspx>

Georgianna Shea

Editor

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Bringing A Little South to the West

Summertime activities in southern state suburbia back in the 60s were not dull. Even for families like ours who didn't have much money to take extravagant vacations, we still found plenty to do day and night during our summers off from school.

Before getting my driver's license, summer days were spent hanging out with my neighborhood buds. That is unless I was shipped off to my grandparents to help tend the crops on their Arkansas farms. We would play various games or pretend we were in the Army, hunting down those who would seek to destroy our American way of life.

The games we played largely depended on how many kids we could round up. If we had enough, we'd either play baseball or football. Because we lived across the street from the Memphis Airport complex, there was a HUGE field that made football and baseball perfect. And as long as we respected the area, the airport security left us alone. If we didn't have enough for two teams, we'd play "Steal the Bacon," "Red Rover," or something similar. Then, after dark, we'd play my favorite, "Kick the Can." This game was similar to "Hide and Seek" but included an empty bean or soup can. Someone was designated as "it" (Not to be confused with the Stephen King novel). They had the job of finding all the rest of us who went into hiding. But first, one of us other than "it" would get the chance to kick the can from the home station that was either the street or a driveway. The person who was "it" had to retrieve the can, put it back on the home station, go down on one knee and count to 50 aloud while the rest of us ran in different directions looking for someplace to hide. So, the "it" would have to look for all those in hiding. If found, the "it" had to run back to the can, place a foot on top, and yell, "1,2,3 on Jay (or whoever was found). That person would have to report to the home station and wait to be rescued. That occurred when someone still in hiding left their secure place while the "it" was out looking for the next victim, run up and kick the can again, freeing all who had been captured. The game ended when the "it" successfully found all in hiding without losing them to freedom. Great fun!

In the summer, we would also wait for the lightning bugs to come out in the evening. There were usually hundreds flying around. We'd capture them and either put them in a jar with holes poked in the lid, or occasionally we'd pull their tail off when the bugs lighted and attach them to our t-shirts. The bug guts provided a temporary paste to keep them on our shirts. Yes, I know that's pretty gross, but it added to the fun and excitement. We'd try to be the ones with the most lights on our shirts.

Once we got our driver's license, our games and outings changed dramatically. Our games and outings changed to cruising the streets, getting jobs, going to Drive-In Theaters, running errands for Mom and Dad just to get the chance to drive, and opening our field of friends to those other than just in our neighborhood. All of this was naturally dependent on getting gas money. So even though we could get gas for about \$0.18/gallon, we still had to come up with about a dollar to put five or so gallons in the tank. That presented a challenge pretty frequently.

I thank God I grew up in the time I did. I pity the kids these days who stay tied to their computers, tablet, or cell phone for entertainment. We were much more active when I was their age, and we learned how to get along with people from all walks of life and different backgrounds. They know how to create emojis and virtual game characters (avatars). We had something similar growing up; we referred to them as our imaginary friends. And we took them with us outside to play.

I think I'll find an empty Bush Brother's and Company Baked Bean can and take it outside to the street. Maybe I can find someone to be "it!"

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

This year, the Post renewed a long-standing tradition. We were able to go back into the High Schools and present JROTC medals to deserving cadets. Commander Marvin Weaver Jr presented the General Military Excellence Medal, American Legion Scholastic Award Medal, and American Legion Citizenship Award to cadets at Doherty High School and Mitchell High School. The following are the cadets and the award they received.

Doherty High School:

Jayden Wilson – General Military Excellence Bronze Medal

Mitchell High School:

Reuben Losey – Scholastic Award Bronze Medal
Miquah Aniasco – General Military Excellence Bronze Medal
Shayd Richardson – Citizenship Award Gold Medal
Trenton Bauman – Citizenship Award Silver Medal
Josh Gallegos – Citizenship Award Bronze Medal
Izak Jasso – Citizenship Award Bronze Medal



Photo credit: Doug Millison. Marvin Weaver Jr congratulates Izak Jasso for receiving Citizenship Award Bronze Medal



Photo credit: Doug Millison. Marvin Weaver Jr congratulates Miquah Aniasco for military excellence.

Congratulations to these cadets!



Photo credit: Doug Millison. Marvin Weaver Jr congratulates Reuben Losey for scholastic excellence.

Young Guns



NRA-Accredited members of the 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/>

Boy (and Girl) Scouts of America

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



- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls): p24@legion209.org
- Cub Scout Pack 386 (Boys and Girls): p386@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 is for high school juniors going into their senior year with at least one semester left.

- BOYS STATE www.colegionboysstate.org/.
- GIRLS STATE <http://alacolorado.com/girls-state.html>

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

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 American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than 1 March.

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

July 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Department Convention, Denver	
3 Department Convention	4 Indep. Day Independence Day Picnic 11:00am   	5	6	7 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	8 Price TBD Chuckwagon Style Dinner Aux./ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  	9 \$9/\$10 b'fast per person Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
10 Bunco! 2:00-4:00pm \$15 to Play 	11 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	12 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	13	14	15 \$14/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required!	16
			Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo			
				Venture Crew 7:00pm		
17	18 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	19 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	20 Color Guard Tryouts 6:30pm 	21 ELPHVC Meeting - 5:30 Venture Crew 7:00pm	22 Price TBD Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	23 ALR Poker Run Kickstands Up 7:45am 
24	25 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	26 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	27 Color Guard Tryouts 6:30pm 	28 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  TALARC EC Meeting 5:00pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	29 \$15 Adults/\$5 Kids Troop 77 Fun-raiser Decades Dinner 50's, 70's, 20's Theme 	30 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
31	Notes: Hamdogger is cancelled 1 July. Most of the volunteer help will be at the Department Convention. The Chuckwagon Dinner is a fundraiser for the Defenders of Freedom supporting the Homeless Veteran Standdown in Oct. Silent Auction and 50/50.					

August 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	2	3	4 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm	5 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm	6 ALR Pony Express Kickstands Up 8:00am
7	8 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	9 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm	10	11 Venture Crew 7:00pm	12 Price TBD ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	13 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00 Color Guard Tryout - 1:00pm
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