

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Gregory Smith



With the start of my second year, I am just as motivated as I was last year. I have been able to see plans implemented, membership increased, and Veterans supported from all of the Legion Family programs. From each of these successes, there have been opportunities to meet others who have the same interest and passion to help Veterans and their families.

Our job is not to judge. Our job is not to figure out if someone deserves something. Our job is to lift the fallen, to restore the broken, and to heal the hurting.

The new leadership team the Post has chosen has expressed many of the same points mentioned in the quote above. It highlights that we as a Legion Family are here to let the community know we will help Veterans. We have to vet those that come, but in the end making sure we comply with our mission and charter: Helping Veterans.

Leadership is not about titles, positions, or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing others.

From the above quotes, I am hoping to take the Post to the next level. I want us to be the model Post in helping Veterans' families of the fallen, walking with those that have become broken, and needing a helping hand to heal. We have had numerous articles, photos, and events that have demonstrated how we do this exact tasking. The articles and information from others helps define benefits and services. The photos throughout the year are examples of how the Legion Family makes others smile and help them take a break from the hectic things in life. The events have become practices in comradeship, family time, respect and honor to those that have fallen or provided service to this country.

I again want to challenge each of us as members of the Centennial Post to reach the 1,000 membership goal and demonstrate how our Legion Family approach will move us to the largest Post in the State. With the increase in our membership, we will help more Veterans in the community, support the Americanism and Patriotism needs in the public schools, develop a bigger pool for volunteerism, and share why the American Legion's 4 pillars are a way of life for Veterans now and in the future. As we mention in our meetings, the American Legion benefits and 4 pillars will sell themselves to those that share the same interests. It just requires you to let them know you are a Legionnaire and want them to share in this journey of "helping Veterans."

It is time to renew your membership with the American Legion Centennial Post 209 and in one of its programs to include Sons of the American Legion and Legion Riders. Our Auxiliary would welcome the ladies in your homes. This can be done by sending in a check to the Post, go to Legion209.org, or attending one of our Friday dinners. We would be glad to see you and serve you a dinner. We currently have a dinner on each Friday night at the Post: 1st Friday: Hamdogger; 2nd Friday: ALR dinner; 3rd Friday: Steak night; and 4th Friday: Chicken Fried Steak or Fish Fry. Please come and share this meal and meet members of our Legion Family. They are quite a family and have many thoughts about the experiences of the world. Becoming a dual or triple member aids others to know how diverse we are as a Post and what we offer to all Veterans in the community.

An example of all of the above was seen in the start and finish of the Department of Colorado American Legion Convention. We, as a host Post demonstrated how we welcomed our brothers and sisters to the Colorado Springs community, offered them meals and services, which highlighted our "Chef Art," and showed them how our programs worked well together. Thank you, Legionnaires, SAL, ALR, Honor Guard, and Auxiliary - A Legion Family at its finest. If you have not purchased your Convention pin, specifically designed for the 2015 convention, please ask one of the Post officers. Supplies are very limited. Help generate revenue for the Centennial Post. **(Continued on Page 5)**

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or Kariann Smith (520)-784-3193 kariannsmith@me.com



From the Unit 209 President

Jackie Bowen

For those of you that couldn't make the July meeting, you missed the blessing we had visiting with and hearing what Andrea Salazar and Lisa Cline had to say about McCandless VA Living Center. We also had the pleasure of hearing from one of the Boys State delegates that our Post sponsored.

During our meeting the following report was given. This was an email conversation I had with our Department Secretary/Treasurer. "We can pay renewals for 2016 after July 1st, but can't enter new 2016 members until September 1st. Any new members entered before that will be paying 2015 dues." I think it's set this way because their fiscal year ends third quarter and it pretty much coincides with the end of National Convention when the new year begins for them. Not sure this is entirely correct though. I'd encourage potential members to go ahead and join so they'll get the extra year and benefits, but be sure and remind them they'll be getting another renewal notice for 2016 in September. We have three new memberships. Please let Kellie Hayes (719) 494-7167 or hayeskelliej@yahoo.com if you prefer to have your application held.

Saturday August 29th is Macy's Shop For A Cause day. Please mark this on your calendars and as in years' past our Unit is selling the coupons for **\$5 each** as a fundraiser. They may be purchased at the Post during our events or you can email or call us and we will make arrangements to get one to you. You get 25% off all day on regular, sale & clearance items.

We would love to reach our 100% membership goal this year. Even if you haven't received a renewal form you can renew. Let's get those renewals rolling in and give our new membership chair something to keep her busy.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,



From The Commander Squadron 209

Rick Kettering

4th of July means a lot of different things to me. First and foremost it's about our independence and without all the Veterans' service and the price some of them paid we would not have that independence. Like a lot of service members when I got out of the Air Force on the 4th of July 1981, I put that time behind me and moved on with my life. After becoming a member of The Sons of The American Legion in the honor of my Dad, who served in the Ohio Air National Guard both in the enlisted ranks and officer ranks, I realized that I had a chance to do whatever I could to recognize, honor, and serve the Veterans that had preceded, served with, and have followed me through the Armed Services.



At our annual convention in June, I was humbled to see so many young men sitting in the meeting, taking part by voicing their opinions and voting right along with members one and two generations ahead of them. It was my pleasure to see them step up to become officers in the Detachment. With young men like these the future of The SAL will stay strong and grow. It is our job to help them grow and learn all they can so they can also assist in carrying on for God and Country.

This past year Post 209 became the second largest in membership in the state, I believe Squadron 209 should also hold that honor. If you are eligible to be a dual or triple member I encourage you to become one. Also if you are a member, why not have your sons or grandsons as members as well? I have seen this Squadron grow from 12 members to over 71 in the last three years and now Squadron 209 has two members that have become Detachment officers. This is a first for the Squadron. It is my hope we continue to grow and be the Squadron that blazes the path so that others will do the same.

For God and Country,

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or Kariann Smith (520)-784-3193 kariannsmith@me.com

American Legion Rider
ALR President Andy Gilbert

Congratulations to Rich Jaterka for winning the big screen LCD TV at the Post 1948 Poker Run. I would have won it with my aces over kings but he won it at the last stop with a straight. I told him that he will have to lead us all during the next run as long as that big screen is on his trike. This will be my only time I have to watch TV. Again, congrats.

August is going to be a busy month. As you know, on the 7th we will have our ALR dinner. This dinner has been very successful since its inception. It's a great time when we are able to gather together and have a fine meal. More importantly it's a great time for us to get together and share information about each other's lives and enjoy each other's company. See you there.

On the 8th, we will be supporting the Scavenger Hunt at Post 38. We will be checking out our volunteer list and assist in this event anyway we can. This will benefit both the ALR and MOMY (mothers of murdered youth). The purpose of MOMY is to help mothers who have lost their children due to criminal activities, get help for funeral expenses, legal guidance and much more. Please go to their website. www.momy.org for more information. We are assisting them this year to give them a hand up. They will assist in the Scavenger Hunt for their portion of the benefit. This is just another way we support the community and help another organization become to grow. Your participation is what makes this event ever so successful.

14th -16th POW/MIA Memorial Run will be incredible. We honor those who gave all. In this event, we will have a tent at the event all three days as well as a memorial bike run which will start from at Woodland Park on the 15th. This is an enormous Veteran motorcycle event. Because of the size of the event, we need to be together before going up to Woodland Park. In Woodland Park, we will have breakfast and meet people from all over the world. The support from the local communities are incredible. While on this ride, we will have supporters all along the way to Cripple Creek. It will amaze you. Memorial Celebrations, the mobile Vietnam wall will be there. <http://pro-promotions.com/pro-events/sav> website is a good resource.

29th our first ALR Post 209 Poker Run. This will benefit our Post and our sponsors. Some of our sponsors like Rocky Mountain Brewery and Smiling Toad Brewery will get exposure as a poker stop. We also benefit Post 9/11 at Palmer Lake and Post 38. When we are generous with our stops, we are sharing our blessings with others. This is the way it should be. We will be the first stop where people can purchase breakfast. We will also be the last stop which is a great place to get others to become familiar with our home. <https://www.facebook.com/riders209/events> . Pre-register here. I did.

I am honored to be participating in these events and thank all of you who have assisted in organizing and participating in these events to make them successful. All of us together makes these events great. Thank you all.

2015 Department of Colorado Convention
Gregory Smith, Commander

The Centennial Post 209 hosted the annual Convention in Colorado Springs, CO at the Elegante Hotel in June. I want to thank all of those that attended, volunteered to help with events, and supported the Legacy Run. The Post was given accolades throughout the event and in the debrief. Again, Thank you all.

The Post was able to generate revenue from the Convention. Please review the financial report to see all the divisions. We still have some Convention pins. Please come by the Post or see one of the Post officers to get one of these limited edition lapel/hat pins today. Again, they are \$5.00 each. Please help us get to all members and wear them with pride.



DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE FROM THE VA? Help has Arrived

What? Our American Legion Department Service Office will be in Colorado Springs the 4th Saturday of Every Month (except November/December) for the Next Year.

Where? Centennial Post 209 at 3613 Jeannine Drive.

Time? 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Why? To assist our local Veterans with Claims and to Provide Information Related to Their Medical Benefits.

FAQ:

Do I have to be a member of The American Legion?

No. We Will Offer Assistance to Any Qualified Veteran.

Do I need an Appointment?

No, but it is Recommended. Call 303-914-5585 to Make an Appointment, but Walk-ins are Welcome.

What Do I Bring?

DD214, as well as the following that pertains to your situation: Marriage Certificate; Divorce Decree; Death Certificate; and any Civilian Medical Records.



Tell your Veteran Friends and Neighbors!





POST 209 YOUNG GUNS-August

Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Adjutant Ken Taylor



Five Young Guns shooters along with parents and Instructors visited the Olympic Training Center on July 15th. The evening began with a reminder about the three basic rules of gun safety, ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction, ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot and ALWAYS keep your gun unloaded until ready to shoot. This was followed by a briefing from Jim Shaver of the OTC. Jim introduced members of the OTC staff and talked about the USA Shooting program. The program focuses is on International Air Rifle shooting, which is done at the standing position. Jim then explained the electronic scoring system in use at the OTC. Microphones in each corner of the target measure the distance from impact point to give a digital image where the pellet strikes. Each shooter can instantly see where they are shooting on a small target screen.



Shooters then moved to the firing line and began practicing and sighting in their rifles. When this was complete, shooters were introduced to the Precision Class air rifles used at USA Shooting. Everyone got to shoot and see the difference between these rifles and the Sporter Class rifles we use in our Junior Shooting program. OTC coaches were there to give pointers and help with any questions from shooters and parents.

The evening ended with a contest consisting of 20 shots fired to simulate an elimination round used at the OTC. The contest was close with some fine shooting and one score of 10.8! It was a very enjoyable evening and we would like to thank Jim Shaver and the OTC staff for inviting us to their very fine facility.

The next Junior Shooting class will begin on September 9th, 2015. If you would like information about classes please contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email at adjutantsal209@gmail.com.



FROM THE ADJUTANT-August

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

A reminder that the Post has a meal every Friday of the Month. The first Friday is our Hamdogger; the second Friday is the ALR Dinner (the menu changes each month); the third Friday is Steak Night; and the fourth Friday is the Fish Fry (now with a choice of Chicken Fried Steak). There a few exceptions during the year, the first being if there happens to be 5 Fridays in a month (there is no meal at the Post on the fifth Friday of the Month); the other would be if a conflict arises with the schedule. But we try to get notice out in the newsletter and by email if this happens. Come on down one of these Fridays and see what we have going on. We have a new addition to the game room upstairs. We now have an Air Hockey table thanks to Steve & Kellie Hayes.

The 2016 membership year has started and we are doing well to start. The Department of Colorado has a program called CAMPP that allows you to pay 3, 5 or 10 years of yearly dues at one time. This is one way to avoid getting multiple renewal notices and to lock in your membership dues when membership due increases take place. Another way to lock in membership dues and avoid the multiple renewal notices is to apply for Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL). PUFL is run through national. If you would like more info on either of these programs please contact me and I can discuss them with you or help you to fill out the paperwork for them.



From the Judge Advocate - August Chuck Zeitvogel

Two items to briefly consider this month of August:

First - Consider Symbols: At our July Post General Membership Meeting, I suggested that we as a people use a variety of symbols, i.e. flags, sayings, and mantras of one sort or another as aids in meeting our personal and professional daily challenges. I then launched into the possibility that we adopt the “turtle” as a symbol to emulate and the explained why the turtle.

The turtle, in order to get ahead and make progress sticks its head out. Sticking its head out entails an element of risk and danger to include getting its head hit or chopped off stopping its progress or causing it to take a different course of action. And so it is with us when we stick our heads out speaking up for a cause or taking on any number of projects in our personal and public life. And as with a turtle, getting ahead to reach goals requires opening eyes, evaluate what’s out there and sticking your head out and moving forward with projects risking success, failure, or any variety of things that might happen. Success equals accolades which could translate to increased income, better relationships, words of praise; you name it. Then too there could be criticism and fault findings of one kind or another. As with the turtle – moving forward requires it to stick its head out, taking risks to reach its goals. And that includes any number of connotations one might draw from that.

The symbolism of turtles sticking their head out to make progress was offered for adoption by our American Legion Post as we meet challenges in the coming year. Be like a turtle.

Second item to consider is Freedom of Speech: Do we have freedom of speech in this country? Yes or No; or is it more like, I don’t know; maybe or sort of. The answer is not as simple as it may seem on the surface.

Remember the oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies foreign or domestic ... etc. When reciting the oath, are we just mouthing words going through the motions saying and doing things by rote? Why this topic now? My idealist spirit is bothered as I want to believe what teachers in bygone years instructed – when they taught that we do have freedom of speech. Recent developments at the national level jarred me awake where I now question those teachings.

Check your copy The Declaration of Independence and The Constitution of the United States of America and sure enough there it is in Amendment I of The Constitution: “Congress ... or abridging the freedom of speech...” etc. Well, that settles that question or does it? (The disclaimer as we are non-political)

Practically speaking, if one is not politically correct they open themselves to censuring of one kind or another. Many of us may know someone at the local level and are aware of censuring at the national level, which included shaming by media commentators made to look the fool in political cartoons, had sponsor and advertising contracts broken, and the list goes on we be censured, and possibly be considered an outcast. So in this case did he have freedom of speech? You be the judge.

There are risks of saying or doing what may not be politically correct. Official government may not censure but news media, political pundits and commentators take what may have been said out of context and seldom have time for full analysis of a situation. Big industries and manufacturers, sponsors of sporting events also censure by pulling their advertisements and financial support. Does any of this have an effect on our everyday life? I believe it does, if the high rollers are censured what chance does the low rollers have?

We are challenged to be informed and be aware of subtle changes in freedoms that we have, particularly the freedom of speech. For those who have been around recall how it was back in the 40s, 50s, 60s, and 70s to the present. Space limits further dialog on this topic, therefore, in closing be aware as much as possible and be like a turtle, stick your head and neck out – speak up when things may not seem right.

(Continued from Page 1, From the Desk and Mind of the Commander): As we go into the new year, I want to thank the previous officers for assisting the Post in managing our income and expenses. I want to challenge the incoming officers to continue with this path and develop new ways to help the Post create funding for the year besides the \$6.00 from each membership per capita. There are ways to do this at each Friday meal (pull tabs, 50/50 raffles, programs raffles, donations, and bringing guests to each dinner), PayPal which supports you in making a monthly donation without having to bring cash or checks to the Post, and purchasing items in our display cases. Each one of these methods helps us help Veterans. In the coming year, I hope to have you attend the general membership meetings and bring your ideas, talk to me or one in the leadership team, or drop a note in the comments box (located at the front door). I am proud to be leading this Centennial Post into the new year and be a representative for you in the community. Our networking together in the community will help let Veterans know we have a post to call HOME. Thank you.



From the Jr. Vice Commander - August Mike Barger

The Preamble of the American Legion consists of 10 clauses. Have you ever wondered what each clause actually stood for? The next couple of months, I will include the clause and what the true meaning of it is.

THE AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE

"For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100-percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER...This is the introduction. It declares that The American Legion recognizes the influence of Almighty God in all worthwhile endeavors-and declares the allegiance of Legionnaires to both God and Nation. First things have been put first. All that follows is in conformity.

TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA...The Constitution of the United States is the written bulwark of our free way of life and representative government. It is our guarantee of liberty, freedom, justice and democracy. Members of The American Legion bore arms and went to wars to defend and uphold this document of freedom.

TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER...Without law and order, liberty would become license. Law and order protect our pursuit of happiness, one of our God-given rights. Members of The American Legion served in wars to uphold law and order among nations. It is just as important to maintain the due processes of law in our domestic affairs. It binds Legionnaires to obey the laws of the land and to support the constituted authorities in enforcing those laws. It means the citizen must never take the law into his own hands!

I will leave you with this:

Remember, we serve God, Country and The American Legion, always keeping in mind our fellow Veterans who are in need of some help along the way...



****Rusty Bower's new column to bring a little "salt" to the post.****

Origin of NAVY Terminology-August Rusty Bower



Bell Bottom Trousers

Commonly believed that the trousers were introduced in 1817 to permit Sailors to roll them above the knee when swabbing the decks and to make it easier to remove them in a hurry when forced to abandon ship or washed overboard. The trousers can also be made into a life preserver by tying knots in the legs.



**FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK
AUGUST 2015**

As we start the new fiscal year, all of your newly elected officers are already busy at work in making Post 209 be the best Post in the state of Colorado. We will reach our goal in membership this year. We need all of your help to be able to do this, it is not a one person job, it is an entire membership goal and we can do it if we all work together.

As your chaplain I sent out two Bibles to families of our departed members families. Please let me know when you know someone of our members has passed away. I would rather hear it from many of you than not hear it at all or hear it later when it's all over. Here is something that Max Lucado wrote about forgiveness:

“God, motivated by love and directed by divinity, surprised everyone. HE became a man. In an untouchable mystery, HE disguised HIMSELF as a carpenter and lived in a dusty Judaeon village. Determined to prove HIS love for HIS creation, HE walked incognito through HIS own world. HIS callused hands touched wounds and HIS compassionate words touched many hearts.

But as beautiful as this act of incarnation was, it was not the zenith. Like a master painter, God reserved HIS masterpiece until the end. All the earlier acts of love had been leading to this one. The angels hushed and the heavens paused to witness the finale. God unveils the canvas and the ultimate act of creative compassion is revealed. God on a cross. The Creator being sacrificed for the creation. God convincing man once and for all, that forgiveness still follows failure.”

And in closing I have three words for all of you: **GO TO CHURH!!! AMEN!!!**

Pastor Stan



HONOR – COLOR GUARD - Help Needed! - August

The Honor and Color Guard of Post 209 needs volunteers. We need members to help do the work that is needed to help our Veterans and their families. We need them now as we only have a few volunteers, who are trying to do the work of many. When the new cemetery is open here in Colorado Springs, we are going to be very busy. We need your help now! We need to be able to work together and become one unit or one great team. When we are out there in the public's eye, we need to look sharp and let the public know that American Legion Post 209 is a great and compassionate Post and that they look sharp. Please call Gunny and let him know your interest in serving the Post, the Veterans and their families. The more help we can get, the less that each one of us has to work. We can spread the work around and make it easier on each other. To find out more about it, contact Gunny or any one of the present Honor/Color Guard members.

ICE CREAM, WE'RE GONNA EAT ICE CREAM!!



Please join us Saturday, August 22nd at McCandless VA Living Facility in Florence, beginning at 2:00pm for our annual District 7 Ice Cream Social. Theresa Brandt makes 3 or 4 kinds of homemade ice cream and the rest of us bring toppings, cookies, etc and enjoy an afternoon showing our Veteran brothers and sisters in arms living at Post 1919 (a.k.a. McCandless) how much we love and appreciate them. It's a treat for our tummies and our souls.

There will be eating, visiting, singing and maybe some dancing. Come with us and help honor our heroes. If you want/need a ride, contact the Post.



From the Historian—August

Eric Testorff

While Dad was away in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during World War II, Mom was a “Rosie the Riveter” in our hometown of Kansas City. From an early age, I was aware that my mom had worked in the Pratt & Whitney aircraft plant during the war, and I guess that may have sparked my interest in WWII aviation.

When I moved to Colorado a couple of years ago, little did I realize what a treasure trove of historical aircraft we have on display, right here in the Springs, next to Peterson AFB and the airport. Yep, Colorado Springs is the home of The National Museum of WWII Aviation.

Opened to the public in 2012, the National Museum of World War II Aviation is a unique learning environment that documents the role that military aviation played in the emergence of our nation as a world power after the Second World War. Through a combination of exhibits, interactive displays and docent-led tours, the museum tells the story of our nation’s tremendous technological advancement during the War, and describes the lasting social and economic changes that were essential to the success of the Allied war effort.

While the museum is in the planning stages of a multi-million-dollar expansion, you can see some of the incredible exhibits of WWII aircraft and related history already. The museum holds guided tours on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 10:am, Noon and 2:pm. Prices for these tours are very reasonable: Adults \$10; Seniors and Active Military \$8; Children \$6; and admission is \$2 off if you pre-register online. Oh, and WWII veterans get in FREE.

Take a trip down Powers Blvd., look for the giant, checkered hangar roofs, and discover one of the best-kept secrets in Colorado Springs.



Senior Vice-Commander Marsilino (Lino) Calica - August

I would like to do an update about my granddaughter Khianna Calica, since she is the one of the reasons I learned about The American Legion and Auxiliary. I thoroughly enjoyed our guest speaker from Boys State at our last general meeting, and it reminded me of my granddaughter's journey with Girls State in the state of Washington.



I am forever grateful to the Auxiliary, for giving my granddaughter the opportunity to participate in the Girls State program in 2012. She continued on to Washington DC to attend the Girls Nation week. She met President Obama, and spent an incredible week with girls from each state. She was chosen to be a junior counselor for the Girls State program for the next two years. She acknowledges that the learning experience with Girls State has enhanced her opportunities in college and life. The leadership skills she has learned, has enabled to her to achieve leadership positions in different organizations. In the Air Force ROTC program, at Syracuse University, she is a flight chief and participates in the "Blue Star" Syracuse Drill Team earning a single braid. In her sorority, Alpha Phi, she is the Vice President of Programs and Education. Her greatest achievement so far, one of her dreams realized, is being accepted to the Syracuse University Newhouse School of Public Communications. One of the featured alumni for this school is Bob Costas an acclaimed NBC sportscaster.

Girls State has a positive impact on girl’s lives, and helps them to achieve their dreams and goals. Yes, this is a "plug" for the Girls State program, because our family has experienced and seen firsthand, the success and opportunities that come with being involved with Girls State.

BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

Immediate Past Post Commander Jay Bowen—August

I've mentioned before how blessed I am in many, many ways. One of my blessings is that I had the privilege of growing up with both sets of grandparents. They were diametrically opposite in many respects, but the one thing they had in common was that they were crop farmers most of their lives. We visited them almost every weekend and spent most of our summer vacations with them. Both were prone to wander, but they stayed close to the southern regions even when they got the moving bug. At one point, my Mother's parents moved to a small farm in southeastern Missouri. And this is the story of the Firecracker Chicken Coop.

As you can expect, they lived on a small crop farm, just outside Matthews, which is in the middle of nowhere. So I guess you could say my grandparents didn't live in the middle of nowhere but they only had a short drive to get there. Directly across the dirt road from their farm was another one and they had a son about the same age as me and Bubba (a year older). So naturally, we got together when we visited, which often led to other than Christian behavior. I guess we were about 9 or 10 at the time and always looking for new adventures. On one visit, Dad stopped at a local Fireworks tent and bought us some Black Cat Firecrackers. They were the strongest and most dependable firecrackers you could get at the time. You knew they were good quality because the outside wrap of the firecracker was filmed with gun powder. You couldn't pick one up without getting the gray powder film on your fingers. That also made striking a match somewhat interesting. Even at a young age you learn pretty quick how to delegate duties such as who will handle the firecrackers and who will light them up. For Black Cats, it's rarely the same person.

My grandparent's neighbor kid had a Chicken Coop in the front yard with probably 20 or 30 layers in the coop. Just outside the coop was a fully matured apple tree. And as you would imagine, there were always rotted apples laying on the ground. I'm not certain who had the idea (I'm thinkin' it was Bubba), but somebody thought it would be fun to make a rotten apple grenade and through it over the fence into the chicken coop. Wow! What fun we had watching those apples blow up and send bits and pieces of rotten fruit over the ground and the chickens. Unless it was a direct hit, none of the shrapnel was deadly to the chickens, but it did scare the hell out of them. It was hilarious watching those hens jump, screech, and flap around the coop. Sadly, like many of our adventures our fun was short-lived.

I don't remember who came out of the house first; my parents, my grandparents, or our neighbor's parents. Maybe they all charged out at the same time. All I know is from out of nowhere there stood grownups. And they weren't there to take their turn lobbing appades (apple grenades) over the fence. Boy, were they mad. And this was from the grandparent who was going through his second childhood for as long as I knew him. I don't know what happened to the neighbor kid when he was taken into the house, but it was not a pleasant time for me and Bubba. It was a bad day for wearing a thin pair of shorts instead of a thick pair of jeans.

We were told those hens didn't start laying for about a month and a few of them never laid again. I have no way of knowing if any of that was true, but one thing I learned early on was not to dispute my parents on anything that resulted from something I did to cause the problem.

Chef's Culinary Corner Art Kimbrel

Seems like some of our members enjoy my Chicken Fried Steak. I have had numerous requests to replace Fish Fry, with Chicken Fried Steak on the fourth Friday of each month. Therefore, on the fourth Friday in August, you will have a choice of Chicken Fried Steak or fish. Please RSVP with your choice steak or fish, so I will know how much to purchase of each. My goal is to provide for members' preference. If we change the menu, I will still provide fish for those who prefer it. The price will remain at \$10.50 either way.



Post Officers

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Stan Hamamoto	719-322-6959
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Post Executive Committeeman	Jay Bowen	901-484-7193
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610



Auxiliary Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Joan Ciani	719-579-9194
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-3193



Sons of The American Legion

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Sr. Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Commander	Ronny Ross	719-493-2583
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Chaplain	Christopher Keith	719-382-7845
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Secretary	Cecelia Hamm	720-474-9332
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Mike Barger	719-290-3218



Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events



3 Sep	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
4 Sep	Hamdogger Night 6:00 pm
7 Sep	Labor Day!
11 Sep	ALR Dinner 6:00 pm
12 Sep	General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am
12 Sep	Vet 4 Vet ride (8-10 registration)
14 Sep	ALR Board Meeting 6:00pm
18 Sep	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
19 Sep	ALR Post 209 Monthly Ride: Bishop's Castle
22 Sep	ALR General Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Meeting
22 Sep	SAL Membership Meeting 6:00 pm
25 Sep	Fish Fry! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
26 Sep	VFW End of Season Ride
1 Oct	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
2 Oct	Hamdogger Night 6:00 pm
9 Oct	ALR Dinner 6:00 pm
10 Oct	General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am
16 Oct	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
19 Oct	ALR Board Meeting 6:00pm
23 Oct	Fish Fry! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
24 Oct	Halloween Party! 4:00pm
27 Oct	ALR General Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Meeting
27 Oct	SAL Membership Meeting 6:00 pm
5 Nov	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
6 Nov	Hamdogger Night 6:00 pm
7 Nov	Veterans Day Parade
13 Nov	ALR Dinner 6:00 pm
14 Nov	General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am
20 Nov	Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED
16 Nov	ALR Board Meeting 6:00pm
24 Nov	ALR General Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Meeting
24 Nov	SAL Membership Meeting 6:00 pm
26 Nov	Happy Thanksgiving!
27 Nov	Fish Fry - CANCELLED!



THE AMERICAN LEGION
CENTENNIAL POST 209
P.O. BOX 25334
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80936-5334

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COLORADO SPGS, CO
PERMIT NO. 192

~ August 2015 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	7	8 Membership Meeting Breakfast 9:00am Meeting 10:00am  
9	10	11	12	13	14 ALR Lasagna 6:00pm RSVP Required 	15 Cripple Creek POW/MIA Ride 
16 District Girls State Hosted by Unit 209 2:00pm 	17 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm 	18	19	20	21 Steak Night 6:00pm RSVP Required   	22 Claims Help 10-2pm Department Service Officer Ice Cream Social McCandless VA Nursing Home 2:00pm 
23	24	25 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm  	26	27	28 Chicken Fried Steak 6p RSVP Required   	29 Inaugural ALR Poker Run 
30	31	Notes: 8 August - ALR Scavenger Hunt (Fundraiser)  14 August - Cripple Creek POW/MIA Ride				

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or Kariann Smith (520)-784-3193 kariannsmith@me.com