



The Centennial

Volume XIII

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August 2022

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209



Photo credit: Royce Hopper May 30, 2022. Steve & Kellie Hayes on the Riders Poker Run

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www.legion209.org

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



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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:	Joel Haas	(719) 482-4496
Finance Officer:	Sarah Tobin	(719) 439-7724
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:	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
Chaplain:	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
Jr. Vice Commander:	Chris Hollingsworth	(910) 364-1677
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	



American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) Officers

President:	George Johnson	(910) 494-9768	KE0ALQ
Vice President:	Jim Johnson	(719) 201-5829	W0GTA
Trustee & Secretary:	Harvey LeCato		W1JU
Treasurer:	Henry Russell J		KC0NAJ



From the desk and mind of the Commander

Hello and welcome to August. This year is flying by. It seems like only yesterday we were in a cold January. Now we are in August, and it is HOT. This time of year, I think back to when I was stationed on the USS Inchon. I worked on the flight deck as an aircraft handler directing helicopters for launch and recovery. Working on the flight deck meant wearing long sleeve jerseys and, of course, long pants. It didn't matter the temperature or the weather condition; if the squadron wanted to fly, we were on deck. So with the headgear, goggles, and long sleeve jersey, it didn't take long to feel the heat. The weird part is that I sometimes miss working on the flight deck. The camaraderie you develop suffering thru the same things together builds a brotherhood bond. I still am in contact with the guys I served with during those times.

I am sure that I am not unique in the brotherhood. That is one of the remarkable things that binds all Legionnaires together. As Legionnaires, we all share the same thing, and even though we may not have served in the same branch or at the same time, the feeling still brings us together. I enjoy being a member of The American Legion and recruiting fellow veterans to join if they are not already a member. So, we can do great things together!

You may remember an article I wrote a few months ago about the four pillars of the American Legion. In case you don't, a little reminder. These are the reason I am still a member of The American Legion, Americanism, National Security, Children & Youth, and Veterans Assistance and Rehabilitation. These are our core values, and all are important. Americanism teaches the importance and love of a country that we all raised our hands to support and defend. National Security remembers that we need a robust national defense to keep our way of life. Children & Youth realize they are our country's future, and keeping them safe is our priority.

Most important to me are Veterans Assistance and Rehabilitation. If we do not advocate for our veterans, we have lost everything. So many have given a piece of themselves in service to our country, and we need to ensure they get the help they deserve and have earned. We must ensure veterans have good job opportunities and a roof over their heads. That is why we do so much in support of our fellow veterans.

When you see veterans who are not members of The American Legion, remember this phrase: "We believe in God and Country; We believe in Americanism; We believe in Taking care of our Youth; We believe in Taking care of our Veterans, and We Believe in a Strong National Defense. If this is something you believe in, you need to belong to The American Legion."

Thanks for all you do to help Veterans and our Post.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





From the desk of the Sr. Vice Commander

The 2023 membership year has begun!!! You should have received your renewal notice by now. If not, you will be receiving one soon. The easiest way to stop receiving the notices is to send in your renewal early. There are several ways that you can send in your renewal. You can send it by mail, use the Post website and pay using PayPal, go to the National website and renew thru National, or bring it to the Post and give your renewal to our new Adjutant Doug Millison. We have not received our quota for this membership year, but it should be around 1,100 members. The best time to renew is right now as you are reading this!!!

Steve Hayes

Senior Vice Commander



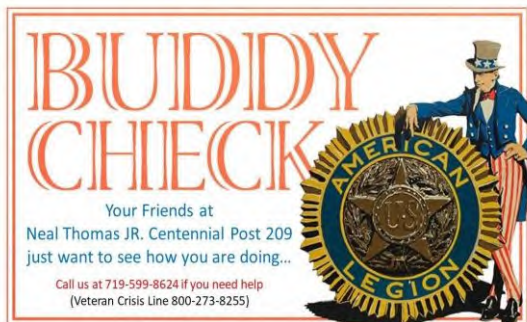
From the desk of the Jr. Vice Commander

We are into another membership year. As a part of my new duties in The American Legion Neal Thomas Jr Centennial Post 209, I need to find ways to spice up meetings and events to make them more enjoyable for the membership (YOU). I'm not asking you to attend all of our events/meetings, but it would be nice to meet all of you at some time during the year. I need to know what would entice you to come to the Post? Call me, text me, or email me with suggestions. It may be something you would like us to do or something you would not want us to do that we are doing. My phone number and email address are listed on our web page at legion209.org When you come, look me up.

Remember The Mission of the American Legion: To enhance the well-being of America's Veterans, their families, our military, and our communities through our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Jerry Hopper

Jr Vice Commander





From our Post Adjutant

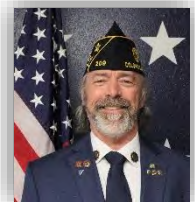
Have you ever thought about attending the Department Convention? Of course, you are allowed and invited to participate with us. Many of your officers and a couple of others attended the 103rd Department Convention in Denver over most of Independence Day weekend. Exiting? No. But it is informative about how the Legion works outside of your Post.

The committee and officers report what happened this year and if there is work to be done, and awards are handed out. Then, the Department Executive Committee meets to conduct the memberships business, and plans are launched. This is your opportunity to participate by voting for new officers on resolutions, the next convention site, and other issues. Due to the Posts size, we go in with a rough delegate strength of 45 and only eight or so members to make those decisions. Next year, when the convention is announced, talk to the commander or me about being added as a delegate. It would help if you went go at least once. And no, it's not a paid trip. You're on your own for that unless you are holding a key position.

One of the things I am looking forward to for next year is the location. The Convention Site Committee brought up two locations for the body to select, and one seriously outdid the other. Details will be forthcoming, but it will be in Ignacio, CO, not far from the Four Corners and Durango, with an opportunity to use the facilities at the Legion negotiated rates for a couple of days before and after the convention for your enjoyment, and RV hookups are available. I think the facilities and food will be MUCH better. Again, the site selection committee did an outstanding job bringing this location and competitive bid to us. I am seriously looking forward to it, and I hope we see you there.

On another note, I have received the 2023 membership cards. There is some accounting that I need to do to get set up, but by the time this prints, I should have started sending them out. (We are missing some cards, and I have over 1,000 to check before proceeding) Due to a paper shortage, the PUFL cards from National will be delayed, possibly until the end of August. If you desire to pay in person, I will be at the Post and can process renewals after the membership meeting and before most Friday meals. I will also be in the office on MOST Tuesdays from 0900 Hrs. until 1500 Hrs. Call ahead or stop by if you're in the neighborhood.

Doug Millison
Adjutant





From our Post Historian

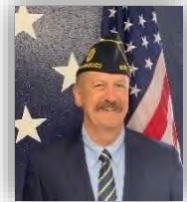
Beginning this month, I'll be recognizing some significant events in the American military and veterans' history. This will not be an inclusive list of every major battle in our nation's history but instead will be a summary of military events that have shaped our national heritage. August was a contentious month during the twentieth century, in which acts of various foreign nations provoked the start of significant conflicts which would ultimately involve American military forces. Germany invaded Belgium this month in 1914, which prompted the First World War. Twenty-five years later, its troops were positioned along the Polish border, prepared for the 1 September invasion that would initiate the Second World War. Six years later, the American use of two atomic weapons in early August 1945 forced the surrender of Japan, ending this deadliest of human conflicts. A North Vietnamese attack on the USS Maddox in August 1964 prompted the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, which authorized the President to "take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression" – the precursor to eight costly years of US military involvement in Vietnam. And this month in 1990, Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces invaded and annexed Kuwait, which resulted in the U.S.-led Desert Shield and Desert Storm defeat of Iraq six months later.

In August 1782, during our nation's War of Independence, General George Washington established the Badge of Military Merit (later designated the Purple Heart Medal) as America's first military decoration, awarded only to enlisted soldiers for "instances of unusual gallantry, extraordinary fidelity, and essential service."



- 4 August (1790) – US Coast Guard birthday
- 5 August (1943) – Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) established
- 8 August (1921) –The US Veterans Bureau (forerunner of the Veterans Administration) was established mainly due to the considerable influence of The American Legion.
- 29 August (1916) – U.S. Marine Corps Reserve birthday

Kurt Skinner
Historian





From our Honor Guard Captain

Post 209 is putting together a competition color guard to compete at the National Convention. Interested Legion, SAL, and ALA members are encouraged to try out. You do not need to be a member of the Honor Guard to be on the Color Guard. The tryouts are on July 19 and 27 at 18:30; and 13 August at 13:00. If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

As stated many times before, the most significant incentive for being an Honor Guard member is the sense of pride you get by helping provide Final Honors for OUR veterans and supporting OUR Community. For the 2nd quarter of CY 2022, I would like to recognize Brad Henderson and Kurt Skinner for their time and devotion to supporting the Honor Guard's commitments. In addition to other community events, Brad and Kurt have each supported 12 Final Honors this quarter. Thank you, Brad and Kurt, for your pride and dedication in supporting the Honor Guard's commitment to OUR veterans.

This month I include an email from one of the Honor Guard members, Brad Henderson, after a Final Honors he supported. I found the email very impactful and feel that it needs to share with everyone, with his permission:

Every now and then, something happens outside the routine of rendering final honors. Today, our Legion Honor Guard had a "double play"; two services back-to-back. In this case, both services happened to be for Navy veterans.

The first service was for a female veteran. As the family assembled, we noted, as we often do, a couple of more elderly folks, most likely, grandparents of the deceased. This couple would be different.

The grandfather, a former World War II bomber pilot at 99 years of age, was dressed in his Air Force uniform. He had been assisted to his place in the covered shelter but rose to his feet and rendered the proper salute during the playing of TAPS.

Her father wore an Air Force baseball cap festooned with unit pins. He made it through the service okay until I presented the three spent rounds, representing his daughter's dedication to Duty, Honor, and Country. That's when he lost it.

Veterans, bidding farewell to their own...

The Honor Guard has continued to gain new members; however, there is no such thing as having too many members. While not everyone has time to participate in the Honor Guard, all someone needs are the time to participate a night or two for training meetings (a meeting is scheduled for every week, check the newsletter calendar) and even just **ONE** event a month. Members of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary are all eligible members. 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.

Joel W. Haas
Honor Guard Captain





From the Chaplain: Can We Talk About...?

Folks rarely bring sensitive, private matters out into the open. So the commercial for a popular digestive remedy stunned millions when a well-dressed young man asked, "Can we talk about... diarrhea?"

Sometimes, we must face a threat "head on" publicly, even if a little embarrassing. **It may save lives.** Any bodily threat, large or "runny nose," impacts our quality of life. Regular maintenance for men requires an annual check of the Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA). If you are a man and haven't had your PSA checked recently, I highly recommend you do. My PSA score has continued to rise without explanation. Now, we know. My latest biopsy discovered two small tumors.

"It is a PUZZLEMENT!" In the musical "The King and I," the king grapples with what he knows and does not know. Faced with teaching a son whose inherited beliefs are challenged by European ideas, he struggles to find a way to guide his son toward the truth. So, it is with prostate cancer.

I feel blessed that this was caught early. But, at the same time, I'm wrestling daily with what I know and do not know. I don't know what lies ahead; frankly, that can be frightening, especially when stretched out over a lifetime. So how do we fight it? We fight it with education, action, and our faith.

Education: The first step toward victory in any battle is to know your enemy. In my grandmother's time, a diagnosis of cancer was a death sentence. Not today. "The Beast" will likely wound me with side effects. But, hopefully, they will be temporary. I am blessed with an excellent medical team at UC Medical Hospital North, including the experience of a 30-year oncology nurse. I am discovering reliable resources, state-of-the-art procedures, and prostate cancer support groups as time passes.

Action: I have consulted with my Radiology Oncologist of 20 years to discuss what we are dealing with, where the tumors are located, how we will attack "The Beast," and when to commence. I am thankful for the fellowship of my brothers and sisters in The Legion family and the shared experience of a new family of prostate cancer fighters and survivors. I feel confident that I have many newsletter articles ahead. (Hey – I'm just sayin'...)

Faith: Back in college, I could keep our Volkswagen "Beetle" running with a simple change of "points and plugs." Today, my Toyota is stuffed from one end of the engine compartment to the other. Sometimes, our machine requires a fix from someone who knows more about mechanics than we do.

This will be a test of faith. I have been tested before. I am entering a dark tunnel, but *darkness fears the light*. In my belief system, Jesus Christ is "the Light of the world" for all who believe in Him. The CHALLENGE is to place the greatest trust in Him when it is most challenging to do so. The King I believe in and serve knows everything: the past, the present, and the future. I need not search for the truth. *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life..."* (John 14:6)

During this battle, I might encounter significant and unpleasant side effects, emotional mood swings, and perhaps even total exhaustion. Once again, I will call on my faith; and one of my favorite scriptures: *"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount*

up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

Generals Washington and Patton each believed prayer to be a force multiplier. All prayers are welcomed.

Brad Henderson

Chaplain

Serving God and Country



From the desk of the Unit President

As we roll into August, our Unit is getting busy again. We have new officers & new ideas, as well as our usual events that we participate in every year. I am confident that we will have another successful, fun year. If you have any ideas for our Unit to participate in, please get in touch with one of your Unit officers or present your idea at a general meeting. You are essential, and your thoughts are important to us.

Happy Birthday to our members who have birthdays in August:

- Nancy Boden,
- Nancy Bunker,
- Rhea Calica-Knott,
- Mary Fitzgerald,
- Ginger Hayes,
- Stacie Hollingsworth,
- Janel Kelly,
- Karen Kozelle Delosa,
- Lynn Ortega,
- Viki Robinson,
- Bobby Senter,
- Mary Wilke

Royce Hopper

Unit President





From our SAL Commander

Summer is off and running, and so is the SAL! Brad Henderson and I attended the Colorado Detachment Convention in Denver. I am proud to announce that your Squadron 209 was selected to host the Detachment Awards dinner on 19 November and the CWF Banquet on 1 April. Details to come in the following months, but we will need max participation to ensure success! Additionally, Brad was elected as Detachment Chaplain, and I was asked to serve as Detachment Jr. Vice. Several members recovered over 800 flags in June from Memorial Gardens that were initially planned for replacement on 4 July. Still, due to the conflict with the convention, we decided to delay that effort until Veteran's Day week. The celebration continued with our first Independence Day party at the Post in years. It was a great time to honor America and share with our American Legion family members in a potluck. The SAL was also involved in the Defenders of Freedom dinner/fundraiser, and a great time was had by all who attended.

We have wrapped up membership for the year, and I am proud to report that our membership is well over 100 percent! We are currently at 77 members and growing. My goal is to keep this membership and grow to at least 100 for the following year. If each member had one person eligible to join and then sign them up, we would easily reach or exceed that goal.

As I type this, we are preparing for a fundraiser at the American Legion Riders Poker Run on 23 July. We will be providing lunch for all hungry riders looking forward to a great turnout. Our Scouting Venture Crew and Scouts are having a hectic summer traveling to and attending leadership events and everything else they do. We can't thank them enough for all they do for us, so THANK YOU!! The fall will be busy with our junior shooters picking back up. They are looking for volunteers to help with evening shooting instruction. If interested, please get in touch with Ken Taylor or me.

With such a hot and dry season, I want to remind everyone about fire safety. It only takes one spark to destroy a community! So always contain cigarettes and make sure your grills and fire pits are stored safely, wholly extinguished, and disposed of properly.

Your SAL is excited for the season to come. Keep an eye out on Facebook and the Post website for more information. We look forward to seeing everyone in the year to come.

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.

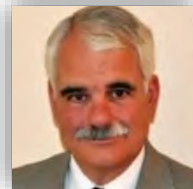
What is Ham Radio?

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

The American Legion 100 Miles for Hope

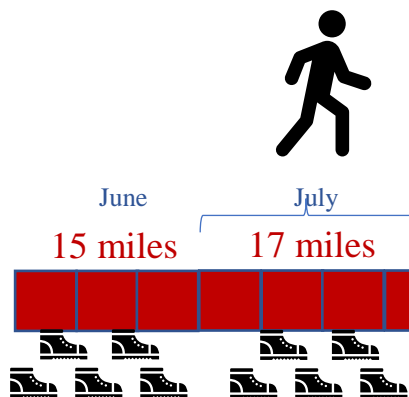
Come join us for a Group Walk!

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 be moving up to 4 miles this month for those that think 3 isn't enough and leaving a little earlier. 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, grandkids, and dogs. It's time spent outdoors together.

Our walks will be:

- August 14th and 27th
- We start from the Post and depart promptly-ish at 0900 hrs.
- We hope to see you there!



35 miles so far!

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

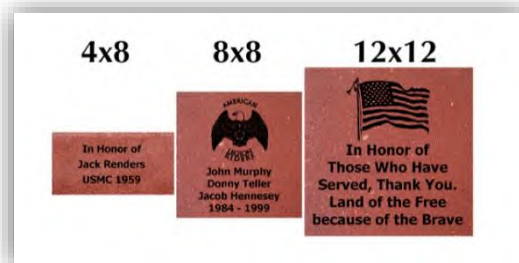
*Additional cost may apply

FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

Walk of Honor



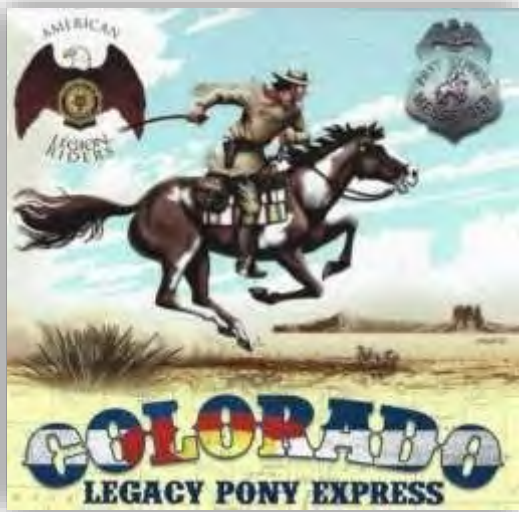
- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style and lettering desired but typically range from \$90 to \$200 depending on size.
- **What are the costs for the corporate/veteran supporter bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but 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. In addition, 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 US 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. In addition, 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 VA 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

This month in the Guest Commentary section, we have a new reoccurring article, Cyber 101. After multiple members reported they were receiving fake emails that appeared to be coming from The American Legion and other members, Joel Haas and I thought it would be a good idea to include some helpful tips.

Matthew Brockie, a CSU cybersecurity student, has graciously agreed to provide an article each month on various topics with the help and guidance of Joel Haas. The latter is not only the Honor Guard Captain but also a cybersecurity professional!

The first month will cover what to do if you receive a phishing email. Future articles will include cybersecurity tips when traveling, shopping online, or filing your taxes online. If you want to contribute or have thoughts on the topic, please get in touch with Matt. His contact information is located at the end of the Cyber 101 article.

Tentatively the Cyber 101 series will cover:

- August – phishing emails
- Sept – passwords
- Oct – travel 101
- Nov – shopping online
- Dec –TBD
- Jan – IRS fraud scams
- Feb -TBD

As we move mature the article, we hope to be able to provide contact information to various community resources like the [National Cybersecurity Center](#), a 501(c)(3) non-profit for cyber innovation and awareness located right here in Colorado Springs.

Thank you, Matt and Joel, for being willing to contribute your knowledge and time to The American Legion Post 209 members!

Georgianna Shea

Editor

letters@legion209.org





Meet your Veterans Service Officer

Hello all from your Legion Veterans Service Officer!

If you need any assistance with VA claims, disability info, housing, medical access to care, etc., feel free to call or email me. I'm here to help you!

A new article came out recently regarding DENTAL coverage at VA. It may happen down the road. The VA offers dental to ALL disabled VETS. But, right now, it is only for specific categories of Veterans.

Veterans enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system could benefit from the VA's dental program if new legislation moves forward. HR 4556—introduced by Rep. Carol Shea-Porter—would require the VA to offer comprehensive dental care to all 9.1 million veterans currently enrolled for VA health care. Currently, only veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 100 percent, veterans with a service-connected dental condition, former prisoners of war and homeless veterans are eligible for VA dental care.

Dental care is also available if the dental condition is affecting the veteran's service-connected condition or complicates treatment.

DAV Resolution Number 018 calls for the VA to provide comprehensive dental care to all service-connected disabled veterans within the VA health care system.

...

The bill phases in the new eligibility over five years to give the VA time to invest in and increase its capacity to provide dental care."

See attached link for more info:

<https://www.dav.org/learn-more/news/2018/fighting-tooth-and-nail>

Brian J Murphy, LCSW, MSW

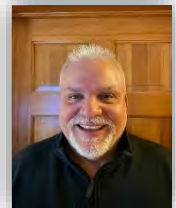
VA/DoD Liaison Program

Office: 719-526-9675

Cell: 719-930-4147

Brian.Murphy3@va.gov

Brian.J.Murphy44.civ@mail.mil





Pastor Stan's farewell address: Has God been good to you?!!!!!!!

I have been thinking of what I will write about for my last newsletter to all my legionnaire friends. There are many things I would want to say, but I can't find the right words. Maybe as I write this final article, it will come to me like when I write a sermon for Sunday.

The first thing I want to say is THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO BE YOUR DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN FOR THE PAST 7 YEARS. You have been very kind to me while learning what a Chaplain needs to do as the American Legion Department Chaplain. I have learned a lot from you, and I thank you for that. One of the biggest things I had to adjust to is that as The American Legion Chaplain, you are not just preaching to the choir. There are many different denominations, if not all the denominations, in our ranks. It took me a while to realize this was the case, and I needed to change many of the things I said and did. But I got used to it, and when you do, it's not that bad at all. Now I can preach to the entire congregation and not only to the choir.

My mentor, Jay Bowen, has benefited me because I did not know anything about The American Legion, and he has taught me everything I know now about the Legion. And that is from the bottom to the top. Being the first chaplain from the State of Colorado to be a National Chaplain has been an honor and a privilege. Just think of it, after 101 years, we finally got a National Chaplain from the State of Colorado. I pray that we do not have to wait another 100 years for this to happen again. As your National Chaplain, I have made many at the NEC aware that we have good leaders in Colorado. We have a few committee and commission chairpersons and many who work on committees. However, we need to have more leaders step up and become National Officers, elected, or appointed. Many have worked from the Post level for years, and I think they should consider moving up and taking a more significant role in the leadership of our great organization. I've had a great time meeting many friends from all over the nation. You get to know them, and hopefully, this friendship will last as all good things do.

I had a great office staff that helped a greenhorn like I was seven years ago. They guided me many times at midyear conferences and annual conventions. They helped me when I attended many district conferences. My Post 209 has been very helpful, allowing me to take time off from Post activities to do the Department and National things I had to do, and I thank them very much. I feel honored to be a part of this great organization with many great people working for a worthy cause, helping veterans. GOD surely knows what HE was doing when he led me to this great organization and to get involved with it. My wife, bless her heart, wanted to come home to Colorado when I am doing ministry, and if it were not for that, I would not have met so many of you great people. After being away from that church for 12 years, I have been called back to do GOD'S work again. It will take me a while to get back into the swing of things, but with HIS help, I know I will be able to do HIS work. I will still be around but not so much in a leadership position. I plan to attend as many of my Post meetings as possible as the district meetings. Midyear and the annual conventions, I will be there but not involved like I used to be. I will be an attendee only. I pray we will all still be friends and that the work GOD has called me to do will not interfere with our relationship. And now I will close for the

last time, and I pray that you will not forget "HAS GOD BEEN GOOD TO YOU? and GO TO CHURCH! I needed to bring these two critical messages to all of you for HIM.

My last three words for the last time to all of you are: **GO TO CHURCH!!!!!!**

Paster Stan Hamamoto

**National Chaplain and
Department Chaplain, and
former Post and District 7**



A little bit about Pastor Stan Hamamoto:

Stanley K. Hamamoto was appointed national chaplain of The American Legion on 2 September 2021, at the organization's 102nd national convention in Phoenix.

Born and raised in Honolulu, Stanley K. "Pastor Stan" Hamamoto has served as the American Legion Department of Colorado chaplain. He served in the Coast Guard from 1952-1960 and is currently a member of American Legion Post 209 in Colorado Springs. He is an ordained minister with the Christian National Church (Disciples of Christ) and has extensive pastoral experience. Before becoming a minister more than 20 years ago, Hamamoto had a 40-year career as an accountant.

Hamamoto engages in many community activities, such as district visits, Four Chaplains observances, and chaplain's workshops. In addition, he fills the pulpit when called.



Prior to serving as our National Chaplain, Pastor Stan also gave several years of service as our Post 209 Chaplain, our District 7 Chaplain, and our Department of Colorado Chaplain. Pastor Stan, thank you for your service and dedication!

Cyber 101 – Phishing Emails

The American Legion Post 209 members are receiving emails from what looks like "Legion209" or from specific individuals within The Legion (especially Post 209) asking the recipient to download a file, as seen in Figure 1. These are not legitimate emails - phishing emails used to launch a cyberattack against you!

What is "phishing"? Phishing is an online scam in which the sender masquerades as a company or person you may know or trust. The email will usually contain fraudulent but important-looking messages with a downloadable file or a link to click. Unfortunately, instead of being a legitimate message, it's a cyberattack. Fortunately, most phishing emails have some tell-tale signs of being fraudulent, as seen in Figure 2.

What to do if you believe you have received a phishing email?

- Please do not open it or click any of the attachments
- Contact the sender to verify if they sent it
- Take a screenshot (if possible)
- Delete the message
- Please report it to Doug Millison with the screenshot

What if you click on a link or download an attachment in a phishing email?

- Download and install a virus scanner
- Disconnect the computer from the network by turning off Wi-Fi or removing the network cable
- Reboot your computer into safe mode (remain disconnected from the Internet)
- Delete any temporary files (search for "temporary files" then delete unnecessary files)
- Run virus scan
- Delete or quarantine the virus
- Reboot the computer
- Reconnect to the network and change the modem/router password(s)
- Change all passwords
- Update your software, browser, and operating system
- Please report it to Doug Millison (adjutant@legion209.org) with the screenshot

Matthew Brockie

Cybersecurity student, CSU

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Looking for an internship summer of 2023





Figure 1: Actual email received by a member of The American Legion

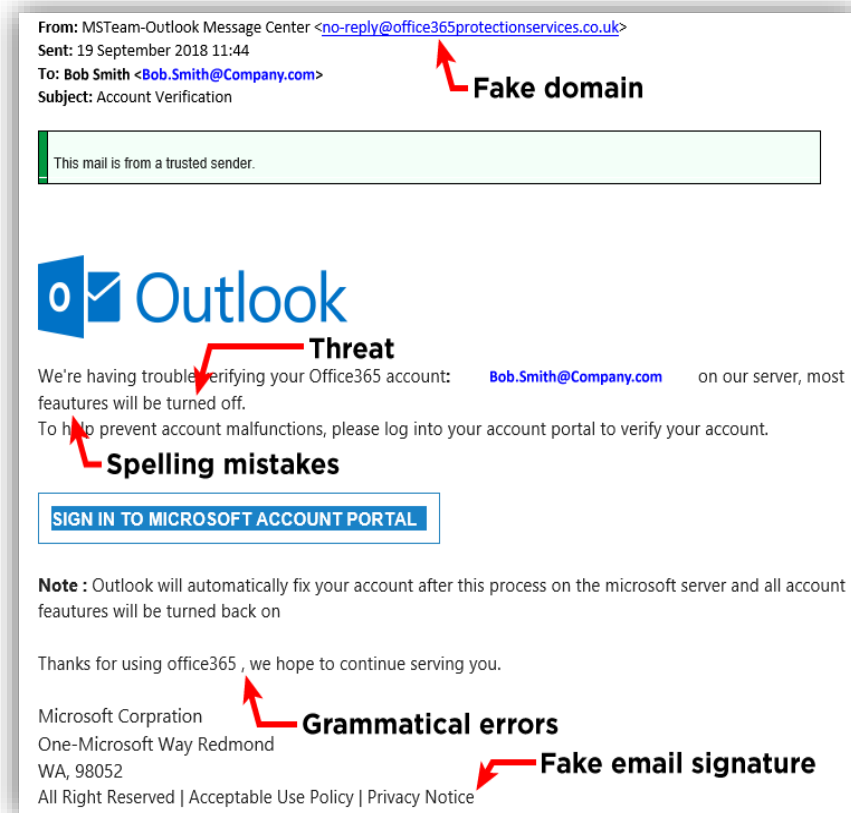


Figure 2: Generic signs of a phishing email



Bringing A Little South to the West

The dating scene for teenagers today is much different than when I was growing up in suburbia. But, then, it is not uncommon to see young kids on a date in a nice restaurant or hang out at the mall. For the folks and me in my sphere of friends, we never took a date to a restaurant. We didn't go to a restaurant even by ourselves. We didn't have any malls nearby until I was about to leave for the US Army.

For my friends and me, a drive-in theater was a typical date. That was because it was cheap, and unless you double-dated, you had some privacy if you wanted. And did I mention cheap? Yep, that was key. If you worked it right, you could go see a double feature at the Drive-In on "dollar a carload night." So even a double-date made this a very reasonable outing. You could even splurge on a soda and pronto-pup, hotdog, or popcorn on those nights, which made you look like a big spender.

A typical "day date" for Jackie and me was going to the Memphis Zoo. I have always enjoyed the Zoo, even when visiting Memphis today. And when we were dating, it was free. That made it even better! I was able to buy Jackie a Snow Cone or popcorn while we walked along the asphalt paths looking at the exotic animals from around the world. We slowed down on this outing when they started charging a \$0.50 entrance fee.

Another favorite day date was visiting the Pink Palace Museum. This was/is a fascinating place located near mid-town Memphis. This originally started as a mansion built by Clarence Saunders, the founder of the first self-service grocery store, Piggly Wiggly, in the early 1920s. Unfortunately, he went bankrupt before finishing the mansion and donated it to the city of Memphis with the condition it become a museum. While it has the typical artifacts and exhibits you would typically expect to find, it also has a wing with a replica of the first Piggly Wiggly store. It is still a fascinating place to visit, although it is no longer free admission as Jackie and I frequented the mansion.

The crowd I hung out with didn't do much cruising as you see in the movies about the 50s and 60s. We didn't have the money just to drive around aimlessly, and we only had one hamburger joint close by to cruise. We had a Shoney's Big Boy not too far away, but we could afford the hamburgers, so we stayed away from cruising.

Not dates, but the other things Jackie and I (as well as many of our buddies) did include going to our little country Baptist Church on Sunday, visiting my Grandparents at their farms in Arkansas, and having dinner with our parents.

Thinking back, I think we had it better than the kids today. They seem to have more money to spend, but we had fun hanging out (and mostly staying out of trouble).

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

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/>

Scouting Programs

The Post 209 family is the charter partner for six 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/>

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
14 Group Walk! Promptly at 9:00am-ish	15 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	16 ALR Exec. Mtng  ALR 6:30pm.	17 Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm	18 ELPHVC Meeting - 5:30 Venture Crew 7:00pm	19 \$14/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	20
21	22 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	23 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	24	25 Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm  TALARC EC Meeting 5:00pm Venture Crew 7:00pm	26 Price TBD Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	27 Group Walk! Promptly at 9:00am-ish Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
28	29 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	30	31	Notes:		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Executive Committee Meeting 6:00pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	2 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm 	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8 Venture Crew 7:00pm	9 Price TBD Aux. Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	10 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
11 Patriot Day	12 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	13 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	14	15  TALARC EC Meeting 5:00pm Venture Crew 7:00pm	16 \$14/Person Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	17
18	19 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	20 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm. 	21 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	22 Start of Fall Venture Crew 7:00pm	23 Price TBD Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	24 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
25 Neal Thomas Jr. Memorial Run 	26 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	27 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	28	29 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	30	Notes: