

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Gregory Smith



I sit here and ponder the activities of the month. I am excited to see how amazing the members of this Post are. Thank you all for helping the Veterans and their families in the community.

At the general membership meeting we had State Senator Lambert in attendance. We participated in the annual Scavenger Hunt for the American Legion Riders, which supported the Mothers of Murdered Youth. As always, ALR rode to McCandless Veterans Nursing Home for the annual BBQ. We honored the POW/MIA at the Cripple Creek POW/MIA recognition ride. Our interaction in the community continues to grow each month and allows the American Legion to demonstrate the 4 pillars. Other activities coming in the near future are the Department Service Officers at the Post, Pikes Harley community end of year gathering, Macy's Shop for a Cause and ALR Post 209 Inaugural Poker Run.

Please get involved: share your time; attend a function; and/or contribute an item or money when possible. We encounter many Veterans over the month that need things and it is important to be prepared for these times. Let us know what you are interested in and how to help those in the community. "No VET should go without food, housing, health care, work, respect; EVER."

While we participate in these activities to honor our Veterans, there will be others who do not. An author, named Rick Perlstein, wrote an article titled "The POW/MIA Flag is Totally Racist." He wrote about how the POW/MIA Flag was created to "justify" the war and how our POWs were members of a cult. I will let you ponder this "stupidity" that was allowed to be published. This insane author continued to write of ignorance and identify this "banner of lies." My family has decided to not purchase Newsweek until someone has a better concept of editing. From the backlash, Perlstein produced an apology that appeared to be a shroud of deception and ended with "I stand by my article."

On September 18, 2015, our nation will pause and pay tribute to our Veterans who have given the ultimate sacrifice or are waiting to be brought home. On this day of observance, please let us know who is displaying the Flag so that we may provide a certificate of support to each organization that is displaying the POW/MIA Flag. I look forward to giving these certificates to our community agencies. It is a time to demonstrate we will "never forget" and will continue to fight for repatriation of all Veterans.

"FREEDOM is not FREE, but it is paid for."

As we approach the anniversary of September 11, please pause to pay respect to those who have lost their lives and families who have lost loved ones in the most devastating disaster on US soil. There are many events throughout the State of Colorado. Please find one and get involved.

As a Post, our Color Guard is often asked to support families of Veterans at funeral services, parades, and other community ceremonies. If you want to get involved with the Color Guard, please reach out to Gunny Raines. He is our Guard Captain and is in need of our help. The Veterans cemetery is coming in the near future and we have to be ready to pay tribute to our Veterans.

Other articles in the "Centennial" this month will explain things that are changing in the coming months with membership, dues, and benefits. Please take note and help our Post home continue to help Veterans and their families. Please let me or any other officer know what we can do for you.



From the Unit 209 President

Jackie Bowen

AUXILIARY SEPTEMBER MEETING CANCELED! We voted to cancel our meeting for September since a lot of us will be at “All Activities Day” in Pueblo. This is a day we get to spend with our Veterans residing in Pueblo at the VA living facilities. If you would like to join us for this event, it will be held at 2600 Oakshire Lane in Pueblo. The actual activities begin at 1:00pm. We have booth number 25 and it’s called the Penny Pitch. There will be a banner reading “American Legion Post 209 Family” across the front of the table. We will be there at 9:30am to set up. If you want to come help get things ready, let me know. I need to turn in a headcount because they will serve us lunch prior to 1:00pm. Thank you to all of those that supported our Macy’s “Shop for a Cause” fundraiser. We can put that money to good use serving our Veterans. Also, I would like to thank our Legion Riders for offering to let us do a breakfast fundraiser for one of their rides. Thanks to everyone that helped cook and serve the breakfast and of course all those that ate the breakfast.

There was a glitch on our website in August causing some RSVPs not to come through for the ALR Lasagna dinner. We’re sorry for the inconvenience this caused. Our members received the receipt but the information never reached me or Eric (our webmaster). On that note, if you RSVP via our website and need a response to a question, please, please, please give us an email address or phone number so that we may respond. If we just hit respond then it goes to our website.

Our sale of the aprons, pot holders, and Kleenex holders is ongoing. The only aprons we have left I believe are Marines, but the other two items are still available for all the services.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!
Jackie Bowen



From The Commander Squadron 209

Rick Kettering

Not only has this Squadron grown over the last couple of years so has its commitment to Children and Youth. While looking through past articles I noticed that our goal for all of 2013 for the CWF was only \$800.00 and in Feb 2013 we were at \$750.00 of that goal. The goal has grown over the last few years and this year we are shooting for \$1500.00 and we are close to 2/3 of the way to that goal. I want to thank everyone for their generous donations.



Along with CWF we are still collecting money for our Josh Dog Project. Just recently Squadron 209 delivered 20 Josh Dogs to Children’s Hospital @ Memorial Hospital and we had quite a turnout for that. I want to express my thanks to all the younger members of Squadron 209 that were there to present them.

Most of these Josh Dogs pictured were provided by Caveman Barbershop by donating a day’s receipts to benefit the kids. Anyone who knows of a kid in the hospital or going through a daunting medical issue let us know and we will make sure that that the youngster will get one.

For God and Country,

Rick Kettering



September Motorcycle Minute

ALR President Andy Gilbert

Over the last month, we have been as busy as it gets. I want to start with the McCandless Veterans Home picnic. We enjoyed the ride to Florence and spent time with the Veteran residents. It was a great time spent to share stories and enjoy time with people who would have been forgotten. Sharing time, talents, and treasures enhances the quality of their lives. It wasn't just a BBQ. It was an event where we all melted into the crowd and bonded with Veterans in the fall of their life. You made it special. Thanks.

I would like to thank all riders who assisted the Roger Linville family in celebrating Roger's life. The Linville family was truly thankful for all the support given. Roger was a Korean War Veteran and it was definitely fitting that his wife received a motorcycle escort with a flag detail. All riders involved were honored to be there.

As you know, our ALR Lasagna dinner was an incredible success. 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.

The scavenger hunt was beneficial to 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. Their members had a commanding presence in the scavenger hunt. We saw them serve all over the scavenger event. We even saw them riding in the event. It was a pleasure to see them benefit from this fundraiser. We wish them well in further endeavors.

Two years ago the founders of our ALR went to this event. Out of this ALR 209 was born. Now newer members got to experience this memorial run. Two years later our riders are staying for this three day event. It is suggested that next year we make it an overnight ride and enjoy each other's company more. Our events are changing and growing as time goes on. You are coming up with better ideas that warrant good attention.

Upcoming events will be the Vets 4 Vets run on Sep 12th which will help finance our Veterans stand down in October. As a Post, we have seen Veterans successfully come off the street and become fully independent members of society. We never expected a hundred percent success but we did hope to affect a few people. Thank you all for your help in the past. We will be participating again this year. Our participation in this event is what helps makes it successful. I'm looking forward to the fundraiser and the stand down.

The Bishop's Castle run will be on the 19th of September. This is always a fun time for all. It was eventful last year and I hope just as much fun this year.

The 26th of September will be the VFW Warriors end of season party. This will be a relaxing time to enjoy with these members of Vets 4 Vets organization.

Lets be safe and Ride well.



District 7 Fall Conference!

The District 7 Fall Conference will be at American Legion Post 5 in Colorado Springs on October 4, 2015 starting at 11:00am. There will be an Oktoberfest theme to the Conference. Wear your Lederhosen!



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

Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Adjutant Ken Taylor

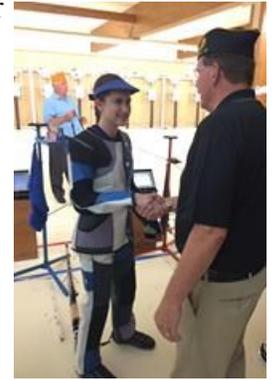


The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports 25th National Championship was held July 23, 24, and 25 at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. 30 athletes from around the nation were invited to take part in this contest. There were 15 participants in the Sporter Category and 15 in the Precision Category.

Shooters are required to fire 20 rounds prone, 20 standing, and 20 rounds kneeling. This was done in both the morning and afternoon sessions of Thursday July 23rd and Friday July 24th. The total possible score for the 2 days is 2,400. From this score, the top 8 competitors are selected for each category and invited to compete in the final on Saturday July 25th. The finals competition was 10 shots fired from the standing position only. This makes the total possible score 2,500 points.



The winner in the precision category was Rhiann Travis of Texas with 2,487.9 points and the winner in Sporter competition was Adam McClintock of Arizona with 2,331 points. Congratulations to the winners. It takes tremendous dedication and practice to attain scores like theirs!



The winners in each category receive a \$5,000 scholarship provided by the American Legion (\$2,500) and the Sons of the American Legion (\$2,500). The 2nd place finisher in each category receives a \$1,000 scholarship provided by the American Legion Auxiliary.

This journey to the National Championship begins with the Postal contest held every year at Post 209 and other Posts around the country. Winners with the highest scores at the Local Post level are then invited to compete at the State Regional level. The top Regional Winners are then selected for the National Championship. The Young Guns of Post 209 will be competing in the Sporter Category when the Postal Contest opens in November 2015. Any graduate of our junior Shooting class is invited to participate. NRA Marksmanship qualification is going on now and is a very good way to hone your skills for the upcoming postal competition.

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

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

Department has started a couple different advertising initiatives to help with membership recruiting. They have partnered with the Denver Post to advertise on Facebook and have started advertising in 4 different movie theaters. They are currently advertising at the Chapel Hills Theater. Look for the ads when you are out at the movies or looking around on Facebook.

DEPARTMENT PISTOL RAFFLE



To offset the costs of these advertising campaigns; Department is having a raffle. It's called, **"One To Show, One To Shoot!"**

The Department of Colorado is selling raffle tickets for two 45 Cal 1911 pistols. The One for Show is the 100-th anniversary pistol. This is a very collectable pistol. It is #40 of only 100 produced. Since this is for show we are also giving away the companion 45 Cal 1911 Pistol that you can shoot. Tickets are \$20.00 for one or \$50.00 for three. Drawing will be held on

December 5th at American Legion Headquarters in Denver. Only 1200 tickets will be sold so get yours today. Go to <http://www.coloradolegion.org/store/> to buy a ticket online, or http://coloradolegion.org/concrete5/files/5614/3828/6915/Pistol_order_form_fillabel.pdf to fill out the ticket request. You can mail this to form to Department and they will send you your ticket(s). Good luck and thanks in advance for your support of The American Legion.



From the Jr. Vice Commander Mike Barger

Last month I elaborated on the first 3 clauses of 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.

This month I will elaborate on the next 3.

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 FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A 100 PERCENT AMERICANISM...Americanism is the gist of the American ideals of freedom, justice, individual rights and unfenced-in opportunities. It embraces all the freedoms we cherish and all the rights that are guaranteed to us. It is the very opposite of hatred, bigotry and intolerance. Americanism is the creed that has blazed the world-wide trail for justice, fair play, and decency, belief in God, private enterprise, universal education, and progress in all human endeavors. It puts a premium on the virtues of loyalty, patriotism, hard work and thrift.

TO PRESERVE THE MEMORIES AND INCIDENTS OF OUR ASSOCIATIONS IN THE GREAT WARS...Service in defense of America is the greatest experience in the lifetimes of all Veterans. Recalling the highlights of that service means more than flashbacks to tense moments of excitement and danger in battle, the grime of muddy trenches, the perils of sub-infested oceans, the combats in the wild blue yonder. It means also the un-erasable recollection of the comradeship, the bravery of pals, the teamwork, the sacrifices, the miseries and hardships of military campaigns shared in common. It means the bond that binds all ex-servicemen and women together in mutual affection, respect and gratitude. It also means keeping green forever the memories of the supreme sacrifices of gallant American patriots, sacrifices necessary to the winnings of wars. It means faithful annual observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

TO INCULCATE A SENSE OF INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION TO THE COMMUNITY, STATE AND NATION...Always interested in building a better nation, the founders of The American Legion believed that such building must start first with the individual in his own community. So they made it one of the cardinal principles of The American legion to inculcate that sense of personal obligation to the community, state and nation into the individual citizen. That means educating the citizen-young, old and future-in his and her responsibility to be active in making the hometown a better place in which to live, in discharging the duty of voting in elections, in paying taxes promptly, in contributing to community chest funds and to blood banks. The word "inculcate" means "to impress by frequent admonitions" and "to enforce by frequent repetitions." Like the duties themselves, the reminders that they remain to be carried forward, are never finished.

Again, I leave you with this:

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



Origin of NAVY Terminology Rusty Bower



NAVY TERMINOLOGY:

Knee-knockers: A knee-knocker refers to the bottom portion of a watertight door's frame that stick up approximately 18 inches from the deck. They are notorious for causing shin injuries and drunken sailors hate them.



FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK
Who is Pastor Stan?

Many of you I have known these past two years, but you really never knew who I was and where I came from or what I did. Here is my story:

My name is Stanley Hamamoto, but many know me and call me "Pastor Stan." I need to let you know who I am. I was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. After graduating high school, I entered the United States Coast Guard. I served 4 years of active duty during the Korean War and 4 years in the inactive reserve guard. After the military service, I received my B.A. in Accounting. I then worked as a Chief Financial Officer and Administrator, Controller, Accounting and Office Manger, and had my own accounting practice for about 7 years.

After doing accounting work for 40 plus years, I retired from accounting and went into ministry. Our denomination (The Christian Church Disciples of Christ) has a Licensed Minister program. We go through training for two years and then receive our license to become a Minister. We do all of the same things that an ordained minister does, but we work mostly for small churches in small rural towns. The reason for that is because the wages are very much less than what the other churches pay. But, they all need a minister and the care that we give to them. As a Commissioned Minister, this is the new name that they have given to us. I never forgot where I came from. Like Jesus Christ, when HE wanted his disciples to get a point, HE used Parables (stories) to make HIS point. I do the same thing when I write my sermons. Many people remember the stories more than the theology part of the sermon. When I tell someone I have been there before, I mean it. This is why when I counsel people they have a better time relating to me, because I have been there myself. But that is another story about my life.

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

Shalom,
Pastor Stan Hamamoto



HONOR – COLOR GUARD - Help Needed!

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.



WERE YOU THERE?

Lyle Hagelberg, Service Officer

I was just reading an article in one of the EXCHANGE Catalogs found in the Academy Burger King while enjoying a 'senior' coffee. The article only has relevance to those of us who were in Vietnam, particularly if you ever made it to the Saigon PX. At the front door of the PX stood two wooden elephants, like sentries. After 43 years I can still remember them; the joke was 'lets pick them some night and blame it on the Koreans.' Koreans, that is another story! The tradition or superstition was to rub their heads for good luck. It worked for some but for 55,000+ of our buddies it didn't. These pachyderms can still be seen, guarding one of the entrances to the EXCHANGE headquarters in Dallas, Texas. This goes to show that you never know where you can find history.

Nam (72-72)



From the Historian

Eric Testorff

Wednesday night, 29 July, and Thursday morning, 30 July, 2015 were a very special occasion at Centennial Post 209 in Colorado Springs. The line of American Legion Riders made its way into the parking lot of Post 209 in solemn fashion. They were escorting a special motorcycle and trailer with a flickering flame on top. The various chapters of Colorado Springs American Legion riders had escorted onto the grounds of Post 209 a small contingent of riders from as far as Oregon, who were making a western tour bearing a Torch of Remembrance for the Fallen of our armed forces. The riders pulled up in a line, dismounted, and gathered in front of the trailer with its flame burning bright.



Legion Riders 209 President Andy Gilbert and Post Commander Greg Smith called for the officers of Post 209 to gather around the Torch. Managing Director of Tribute to Fallen Soldiers NW, Warren Williamson then addressed the crowd. Director Williamson stressed the importance of remembering those of our armed forces who have fallen in the line of duty, and called upon Post 209 to guard the Torch overnight, as a symbol of this remembrance. The officers of Post 209 stepped forward and received the Torch into their care for the night.

Also represented were members of Gold Star families-- those who have lost a family member killed in the line of duty. This included Chris Kinnard, of Gold Star Wives, who lost her husband in Vietnam, and me, who lost my brother in Vietnam.

Centennial Post 209 served not only as the place to watch over the Torch for the night, but also for food and rest for the weary travelers, who settled in for the night and some much-needed rest. The contingent was fed a buffet breakfast the next morning by Post 209 Facilities Manager Art Kimbrel, and the Torch was handed back to the Torch-Bearers by our Post Officers. Members of the Legion Riders from Posts 209, 38, 5 and 2008 then escorted the party down to Fort Carson for the next leg of their journey.



The Early Bird Gets...A Free Dinner!

A new twist on an old adage. We will be offering a free, yes a free dinner to all members of The American Legion, Centennial Post 209 family who join or renew their Post 209 family 2016 membership on or before 15 October 2015. The dinner will be offered on 23 October, and will be Chicken Fried Steak. It will consist of a Chicken Fried Steak Dinner, which includes the main course and fixins' (read that as the side dishes) for that meal, dessert and water, coffee, iced tea, or lemonade. Soft drinks and/or something from our Lounge would be additional. The free dinner is for the Legion family member who joins Centennial Post 209 or renews their Post 209 membership on or prior to the 15 October deadline. Guests and/or spouses would be required to pay the normal dinner cost.

Here's what you do:

- Join Centennial Post 209 family (Legion/SAL/Auxiliary) between 1 July 2015 and 15 October 2015, or
- Renew your membership to the Post 209 family between 1 July 2015 and 15 October 2015, and
- RSVP (see footer on this and every other page) prior to noon, 22 October 2015 and include any guest(s) you are bringing, and
- Visit Post 209 on/about 1800 hours on Friday, 23 October to enjoy your meal and the camaraderie of fellow Legion family members.

This dinner is NOT just for the Early Birds. All are welcome to join us for a Chicken Fried Steak dinner at a cost of \$10.50. So even if you are not an Early Bird, come on out and spend the evening with us.

It Had To Happen; Inflation Finally Caught Up To The American Legion - Jay Bowen Dept. Sr. Vice

Well, it took eight years to do it, but the inevitable has happened; The American Legion must raise their per capita (read this as membership dues). Thanks to some very hard work and innovative ways of cutting costs and taking advantage of technology, this increase has been delayed for almost a decade. But nothing stays the same and we cannot expect to continue to reap the many benefits of this great organization without doing our part to ensure its viability. Even though the National organization is advocating making the change effective 20 January 2016, your Department leadership decided to absorb any increases until our 2017 membership year, which starts July 2016. So for now nothing will change for you. Effective with your renewal in July next year, your dues will increase \$7.

Now before you tear up your renewal notice (which I have seen happen every time there is an increase), let's analyze what this means and put it into perspective. This change equates to two cups of Caffe Mocha at Starbucks. So go to Dunkin' Donuts one day instead. Even with the increase, this is still a GREAT deal when you compare it to most other fraternal organizations, and I speak from personal experience. Many range from \$50 - \$80 for membership and you don't get anywhere close to the benefits and camaraderie we enjoy as Legionnaires. But here's how the change breaks out:

- \$5 will go to National
- \$2 will go to Department
- Our Post will not change; we will still keep \$6 of the dues you pay

Let's start with National. What do you get for the \$5 adjustment? For the past several years, our National organization has been slowly losing money as a result of the 13% inflation our country has seen since the last per capita increase (2007). Because of the Depression of a few years ago and the slow recovery, interest on investments has been reduced by 35% over this same period, and we have seen a decrease in membership and eligible Veterans. All of this has resulted in negative cash flow. However, with some of the new branding, marketing, and corporate sponsorship efforts undertaken, there have been some slower, positive results shown but it will take a few more years before we realize truly positive cash flow. All of this has resulted in about a \$5.7M reduction in revenue at the National level. To their great credit, they have not reduced or stopped any of the programs or Veteran support provided during this period. One of the biggest benefits to us personally is the National Emergency Fund (NEF). Just in Colorado, with the Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires, and Manitou Springs and Greely flooding, we have witnessed first-hand how this amazing benefit works. Legionnaires and SAL members have been and can continue to qualify for up to \$3,000 out of pocket expenses resulting from losses suffered during a natural disaster. Posts can qualify up to \$10,000. We have 50 States that are hit every year from some type of disaster (Hurricanes, Tornadoes, etc.) and The American Legion is always there to help their members. Where do you think that money comes from? It comes from you and me when we renew our pledge of support each year. I could go on and on about what our National folks do for us, but let's look at the \$2 increase from Department. You may not be aware of this, but every Post in the Department must pay \$.50 per member every year as an assessment. This money is used to help offset the cost for the Mid-Year Conference and annual Convention. It never covers the entire amount, but it helps. The Department also pays each of the 14 Districts \$.35 per member as a per capita to help offset some of the expenses incurred at the District level. For our District 7, some of this money goes to pay the membership dues of Post 1919, the McCandless VA Nursing Home Veterans who want to belong to The American Legion. Our District has done this for many years and plan to continue this tradition. Department decided to use \$1 of the \$2 increase to eliminate the \$.50 assessment for each Post and to increase the per capita for the Districts to \$.50. The other dollar will go to help stave off inflation at the Department.

There is a way for you to delay or by-pass the increase; join PUFL or C.A.M.P.P. The National Paid Up For Life program allows you to do exactly what the name implies; pay your membership up for life. You can do it in one lump sum payment, or over a 12 month period. Our Department has a Colorado Advanced Membership Payment Plan. Under C.A.M.P.P., you can prepay your membership at the current dues level for 3, 5, or 10 years. It is open to all Department of Colorado Legionnaires. If you are interested in either, contact Marvin Weaver, Jr. our Post Adjutant for details and guidance on signing up.

So what can you do to help? The first thing is to renew prior to 31 December. If the per capita increase is passed at the National Convention coming the end of August, it will probably go into effect 20 January 2016. Even though you won't see any changes, our Department will have to "pony up" the \$5 difference for every renewal after that date. Historically, 80% of our Department membership renews prior to this date. That means 20% will renew after 20 January and Department will have to add an additional \$5 for every renewal sent to National. With our Department membership at 20,000 (that's a very conservative number), that means about 4,000 members will renew after the deadline, costing the Department \$20,000 to renew our members. Let's not be part of that additional cost for the Department. The other thing you could do is talk to your neighbors, friends, and inner circle about The American Legion. Instead of seeing our National and Department membership continue to decrease, let's help grow The American Legion to surpass our previous All Time High before we turn 100 years old in 2019. **Now get that membership renewed!**

BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

Immediate Past Post Commander Jay Bowen - Sept.

I recently returned from a visit back home. For obvious reasons (heat/humidity) I don't normally go to West Tennessee this time of year, but this was a special trip. While there, I spent a lot of time with my older sister, Dee and brother Bubba.

They live in a small town (Spring Creek) about an hour and a half outside Memphis. The town has 4 permanent commercial structures, and as you can imagine in that part of the country, one of the four is a Southern Baptist Church, and another is a former gas station/convenience store now empty. The other two buildings are comprised of the Post Office and a brand new Dollar Store. I met several of the folks in that unincorporated town of about 700 (my estimate). Very nice people and pretty representative of folks from a rural southern farming community.

No one ever calls to announce their intent to visit. They just do a "drive by." They pretty much know my sister's daily itinerary because it is similar to theirs. If it's Sunday morning or evening, or Wednesday night they will be in Church. If it's in the morning about 0800, they will be having breakfast at the nearest town (Medina) with a Restaurant. If they are not at a Doctor's appointment, they will be home. So the likelihood of catching people at home when you visit is pretty good.

Most of the people who stop by will bring something from the garden or a sampling of their latest canning efforts. Even though I remember that vividly while living in the South, this is something I had forgotten. When Jackie and I visit someone, we call first to make certain they are home and we typically show up with a bottle of wine. We haven't found the right combination of plants and other growing techniques to make a go of a garden. Even if we did, I doubt we would take a bag of tomatoes or peas with us when we visit. And I don't share Jackie's preserves with anyone.

A visit ends as suddenly as it begins and without any buildup or fanfare. But it always ends the same way. When it's time to go, the visitor(s) stand, look around the room and state, "Well, y'all go home with us." No one ever says, "Well, I gotta go now," or "See ya' later!" It is always, "Y'all go home with us." And the proper response goes along the line of, "Well, I guess I'd better stay here and feed the chickens." Or, "Naw, I guess I'll stay and slop the hogs," or "I guess I better get supper on the table." It's always no, and followed by the reason they can't go. In all my years of growing up and living in the South, I never heard anyone say, "Okay, let's go." I wonder what would happen if they did. Knowing the type of people, probably nothing other than the visit would now shift to the other house. And the person going would have to take time to run out to the garden to pick some tomatoes or go into the pantry and grab a jar of peas.

I wonder what would happen here if someone just stopped by for an unannounced visit. If they didn't get shot, there's no telling what would happen. They are liable to find the homeowner in their 'jammies in the middle of the day, assuming they are home. I may try that in the very near future. Be prepared. I won't bring anything from the garden or freshly canned, but I'll still bring a bottle of wine. Regardless, Y'all go home with us!



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 beginning in August, you 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 | 719-231-2364 |
| 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



| | |
|------------|--|
| 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 | Early Bird Chicken Fried Steak Dinner 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! |
| 3 Dec | Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm |
| 4 Dec | Hamdogger Night 6:00 pm |
| 7 Dec | Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day! |
| 11 Dec | ALR Dinner 6:00 pm |
| 12 Dec | General membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary 10:00 am |
| 18 Dec | Steak Night! 6:00 pm - RSVP REQUIRED |
| 14 Dec | ALR Board Meeting 6:00pm |
| 22 Dec | ALR General Membership Meeting 5:30 pm Social Hour 6:30 pm Meeting |
| 22 Dec | SAL Membership Meeting 6:00 pm |
| 25 Dec | Merry Christmas! |
| 1 Jan 2016 | Hamdogger Night 6:00 pm CANCELLED! Happy New Year! |
| 7 Jan | Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm |
| 8 Jan | ALR Dinner 6:00 pm |



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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

| ~ September 2015 ~ | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm  | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 Labor Day!  | 8 | 9 Young Guns 1830-2030  | 10 | 11 ALR Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required  | 12 Membership Meeting Breakfast 9:00am Meeting 10:00am  |
| 13 | 14 ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  | 15 | 16 Young Guns 1830-2030  | 17 | 21 Steak Night 6:00pm RSVP Required    | 19 ALR Monthly Ride Bishop's Castle  |
| 20 | 21 | 22 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm   | 23 Young Guns 1830-2030  | 24 | 28 Fish or Chicken Fried Steak 6p RSVP Required    | 26 VFW End of Season Ride  |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Young Guns 1830-2030  | Notes: Patriot's Day - 11th All Patients' Day, Pueblo VA Living Facilities - 12th Vet for Vet Ride - 12th NO AUXILIARY MEETING THIS MONTH! | | |

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