

The Centennial

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AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917

719-599-8624 WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2021 - 2022 OFFICERS!!

American Legion Post 209 Officers

Commander: Joseph Schmidt (719) 247-2634	Sr. Vice Commander: Marvin Weaver Jr. (719) 244-3535	Jr. Vice Commander: Steve Hayes (719) 494-7166
Adjutant: Jerry Hopper (918) 953-9980	Finance Officer: Joel Haas (719) 482 4496	Service Officer: Brian Murphy (719) 930- 4147
Chaplain: Brad Henderson (830) 660-4072	Post Exec Committeemen: Art Kimbrel (719) 339-4610	SGT-At-Arms: Tom Foster Email Only
Jude Advocate: Marvin Weaver Sr. (719) 638-4763	Historian: N/A	Immed Past Commander: Lino Calica (719) 963-0956

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

President: Royce Hopper 918.953.9993	VP: Cathy Barger 719.290.3163	Secretary: Pat Weaver 719.638.4763	Chaplain: Kay Stephens 330.999.0225
Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	Historian: Valerie Stephens 330.510.0411	Sgt At Arms: Charyse Schmidt 651.558.6968	Exec. at Large: Jackie Bowen 901.481.0673

Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

Commander: Brian Wess 719.528.6672	Adjutant: Rick Kettering 813.967.6680	Sgt At Arms: Bob Ingram 480.353.8234	Chaplain: Brad Henderson
Sr. Vice Commander:	Jr. Vice Commander:	Finance Officer: Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	

American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

President: Ed Santos	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	VP: Drew Pearson 719.329.4357	Road Captain: Tom Foster	Historian: Scott Laudan
Secretary: Mike Sylvester	Sgt At Arms:	Communications: Monk Baylis	Logistics:	

Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Jon Davis K0YOV **Vice President:** George Johnson KE0ALQ **Director:** Jim Harris W0EM

Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU

Treasurer: Henry Russell KC0NAJ



FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

October 7, 2001 was the beginning of The US war in Afghanistan, and from this war 2,312 American Service Members would be Killed in Action. Now we face the end of 20 years of fighting, we wonder what our purpose was. The US and coalition forces pushed back an enemy into hiding for 20 years, allowing th0e Afghan people to freely express themselves in non-terrorist-controlled areas. We prevented another 9/11 type attack stopping the further loss of American lives on our own soil.

These are just some examples of our impact the last 20 years. As we watch the country we fought in fall further into chaos, you must remember that you were there to protect your brothers and sisters in arms, and all the citizens of the United States of America. Your time in Afghanistan was not for nothing nor did your friends and family die in vain, they will continue to live on through us.

There are many like me who have severed in the Afghan theater, and the scenes are hard to watch. If you know someone who served over there, please reach out to see how they are doing. If you yourself served please reach out if you are having difficulties. Sadly, there is another group of Veterans who can share in our pain. Those who fought in Vietnam are all too familiar with this, they too had watched a country they fought in be taken back by the enemy after their departure.

We at the American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 are proud of all the Active-Duty Service Members, Veterans, and their families who have ever served, sacrificed, or continue to serve. We will continue our mission of supporting the Community, State, and Nation.

Lastly, you are not alone, remember there is someone who needs you in their life. If any Veterans is having difficulties, please reach out to someone or call the Veterans Crisis Line @ 1-800-273-8255 Option 1.

Joseph Schmidt
Post Commander



Celebrate

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Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

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For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

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3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

I woke up at 2:30am on a recent beautiful Saturday morning. At least I thought it was beautiful. It was too dark to see it. I had no idea what to write about. I got up and tinkered around, attempting to remain quiet and allow my wife (Royce) to sleep. She wasn't sleeping very well either. Perhaps she had the same dilemma as I. We finally got our showers, dressed, and headed to the Post. That Saturday was our General Membership Meeting. After the meeting and the Post was cleaned up, we came home, did a few chores and went to our favorite Mexican food restaurant to meet up with some of our best friends; our American Legion family. We returned home and I almost immediately fell asleep, while Royce began writing her article for the newsletter. For those who don't know us, Royce is now the President of Post 209 Auxiliary Unit. After my siesta, a "light bulb came on" in my head. If you are not bored yet, please read on.

Royce and I celebrated our 29th wedding anniversary on an early August weekend while camping together. After re-cooperating, we started cleaning up our camper and camping gear. Monday morning Royce went to work. I went to the Post to perform my Post Adjutant duties. This has been our routine for most of our marriage. We have worked together on and off all of our marriage. This may not register with you yet. We both love being a part of The American Legion. We enjoy helping those Veterans who need help. We enjoy our American Legion Family. We meet new family members almost daily. We do fundraisers together with our family. We ride my motorcycle together with our family (those in The American Legion Riders).

I am neither bragging nor exaggerating. I am making a point. We, The American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 are Family. United Family, to help other Family members when in need. Family members do fun things together. We also do fun things with other Post Families. Post 209 has over 1400 family members on our roster. If we all try and unite in our endeavors, we can move mountains. If the 2.5 million members of The American Legion Family worked together, we, with the assistance of the US government, could wipe out Veteran homelessness, loneliness, Veteran Needs, and Veteran Suicides.

Family and Friends, Members of The American Legion Neal Thomas Jr Centennial Post 209 Unite. Come Out and Help. Even One or Two Hours a Week Will Help Us In Our Fight To Help Veterans In Need.

Gerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



FROM THE DESK OF THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

Twenty years ago this month one of the most horrific events in our country's history occurred. Everyone knows what I am talking about but in case you don't, the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon happened. We were attacked and our country answered the call and struck back. This attack was just as cowardly as the attack on Pearl Harbor that brought our country into WWII. September 11th this year, please take a moment to pause during your day to remember the loss of thousands of Americans and remember the events that happened.

Membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion. We all joined for a reason. For some it was to continue the camaraderie we experienced while in the military. For others, it was to help our fellow Veterans. What is your reason for joining? Reach out to your friends and neighbors if they are Veterans. Let them know the reason you joined; for most people the reasons are the same. If

you need help in what to say remember this: We Believe in God and Country. We Believe in Americanism. We Believe in Taking Care of our Youth. We believe in Taking Care of Veterans. We Believe in a Strong National Defense. If this is something you also believe in; you should belong to The American Legion. The new membership year has started and the Adjutant has the new membership cards in his possession. Please take a moment and send in your dues for renewal. The cost is \$45 and we have several ways to accomplish this. You can mail them to the Post, you can go to our website and renew using PayPal, you can go to the National website to renew, or just come out for one of the dinners this month and give your renewal to Jerry directly.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Sr. Vice Commander



Join or Renew Your 2022 Membership Dues by November 10th 2021



For your chance to win a Paid Up For Life Membership!

- Must be a member of American Legion Post 209, CO to be eligible
- Current PUFL's will be entered into drawing if selected will win \$500
 - Drawing will be on Nov 11th 2021

FROM THE DESK OF THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

Hello all! I'm happy to serve as your new Jr. Vice Commander for the 2021-2022 year. I'm looking forward to coordinating some great speakers and informative snippets at our monthly membership meetings. Coming up, we have Jim Griffith on 11 September, who will provide an overview of El Paso County Homeless Veteran Coalition (EPCHVC) programs and volunteer requirements for the 21 September Homeless Veteran's Stand-down. Later in the year, we are working to cover winter safety and have a speaker from Mount Carmel provide an overview of their services. We've already had a couple great presentations. At the August meeting, Dustin Venn provided an awesome overview of Pikes Peak National Cemetery, including services, pre-arrangement as well as the burial options and processes. At the July meeting, we discussed the concepts of group consensus using Tuckman's model for stages of team development (forming, storming, norming, performing and adjourning) and the relevance of those stages to Post operations as we swing into a post-COVID world. In many organizations, including The American Legion, increased levels of conflict have been observed as they resume operations following the lift of COVID restrictions. This may be due to expectations that everything will go right back to the pre-COVID 'normal' when people, circumstances and even aspects of the operations have changed. In many ways, despite having accomplished our mission for years, we are beginning a lot of things from a fresh start, essentially right at the forming stages of team development. The key point is that conflict is normal in team development as people work define their role within the organization and the team works to develop their processes for accomplishing the mission now and into the future. When we encounter these conflicts, it is important to remain patient, work to understand everyone's position and concerns, then develop consensus. Remembering that everyone is here to serve at the best of their ability and keeping our sights focused on caring for our Veterans, advocating for a strong national defense, promoting Americanism and nurturing our children and youth will help propel us through the stages of development and ensure we become, and remain, a strong, high performing team.

Steve Hayes
Jr. Vice Commander





Trivia Night!



Do you want a chance for a free dinner? Or maybe a free beverage?

Do you know what is the longest river in the world?

Do you know what is the largest river in North America?

How about Roy Rogers real name?

What is the President of the United States' address?

If you know the answers to the above and other questions similar to these, or if you fancy yourself a trivia wizard, join us on **Friday, 24 September for our Trivia Night event.**

The fun will start following dinner that night, around 7:00pm. You must be at the Post for the beginning of the contest; late arrivals will not be allowed to play.

Royce Hopper will serve as Emcee for the event; giving Jay a rest this month.

This will be a team event; teams can be as small as one person or up to four (4) can play on a team.

Cost to compete is \$5.00 per person.

Even if you don't want to play, come on out and watch the fun! But you should consider competing in the contest. You never know, your dinner that night might be free!

FROM THE DESK OF OUR FINANCE OFFICER

As we approach the 20th Anniversary of 9/11, take a moment to think about where you were, what you were doing, what you were thinking, how you reacted and/or were impacted. We all have a story for that day and how it impacted us. That day inspired such a great increase in patriotism, increasing to a high not seen since the attack on Pearl Harbor and leading to many of us to join the military to defend our country. For those of us already serving, it changed how we felt and what we did (my TDY to Bosnia at the end of the month turned into a much less desirable location for a longer period of time). Unfortunately, too many people seemed to forget that day (or were not even born yet), and in turn let the high level of patriotism wane. Now we need to remember those lost that day 20 years ago, remember those lost since then because of exposure to so many bad things while trying to help, and also remember our brothers and sisters in arms who have been lost defending our country in the War on Terrorism since then.

There is not a whole lot to say this month. The restructuring of the bank accounts is helping reduce the complexity of the finances and greatly reducing the number of account-to-account transfers. The annual audit will be conducted soon to wrap up the 2021 fiscal year. The participation at the Friday dinners has increased a bit, which is good, but there is a lot of people out there that still have not returned (yet).

The utility bill appears to be stabilizing, though it has been identified that the swamp cooler was leaking again. Since it is not known exactly how long, there could be a “blip” on the next statement for water. I will be continuing to monitor the statements to identify early any issues that may arise.

I do have an update on the Tax Exempt status of the Post. An application had been submitted to the State some time back. The Post received a letter that our Tax Exempt request for the Post has been approved and the certificate will follow. This is great news for the Post and will help with the Post finances by removing the requirement to pay Sales Tax on our purchases.

And for my normal closing statement, the Post needs your help in identifying new fundraising ideas. We are still working to get back to pre-COVID status in order to keep supporting OUR Veterans in the community. Any fundraising idea – big, small, unconventional (think about the impact of Kellie’s Stick Pony Race) – is worth consideration to help us get there.

Joel Haas
Finance Officer



FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT



Happy September! This month is the promise of cooler days ahead, time for families to be together more often, and signals my favorite season, Fall. I hope you are all looking forward to this as much as I am. I love all of the "Ber" months; September, October, November, December. I enjoy each holiday and I enjoy the chance to do something new each month with our Legion Family. You are all very special to me & I enjoy being able to spend time with all of you.

As our Unit moves forward in this month, we will be joining with rest of our Legion Family to remember the 9/11 attacks as this is the 20th anniversary. This will be a time for us to come together as Americans, to remember and to renew our pride in our country. We hope everyone will be able to attend. There will be emails with more information sent out to all members as plans are solidified.

Our Unit will be hosting a table at Stand Down this year. We will have hats, gloves & scarves to hand out to our local homeless Veterans. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to our Unit email at alaaux209@yahoo.com. As space is limited, we need to know who wants to assist ahead of time so we can plan accordingly.

Membership renewals for the new year have begun. If you are ready to renew, please reach out to Kellie Hayes. Kellie is our Membership Chair, she can get your new card to you once you have paid your dues for the new year. As always, those members who pay before October will be eligible for the Early Bird Dinner hosted by the Post. This is an awesome dinner that is offered to members free of charge, all you have to do is get your membership dues to Kellie! This is just one of the many perks that are offered to Legion Family members of Post 209.

Auxiliary members with birthdays in September are; Cleo Allgood, Celeste Archuleta, Lisa Brandt, Barbara Fisher, Julie Gomez, Vanessa Leiker, Amy Mitchell, Summer Palaroan, Susan Parsons, Joyce Taylor, Veronica Zeitvogel, Addy Smith. Happy Birthday to you all!

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Royce Hopper
Unit President



FROM THE HEART & DESK OF THE SAL SQUADRON COMMANDER-

“We Honor Our Past & We Forge Our Future”

During this month of special reflection & remembrance for the 20th Anniversary of one of America’s darkest & saddest days, I greet you as your newly elected and installed SAL Squadron 209 Commander. While I’m greatly humbled by the honor & confidence bestowed upon me by the Membership, I feel it also important for me to be direct in saying this was not an honor I ever sought or desired, but rather is a duty I’ve been tasked with & called on to fulfill for the betterment of our Squadron & our Post. It is a duty & responsibility I do not take lightly and one I will endeavor to execute to the best of my ability with the support & assistance of the SAL Membership & our Post Family.

Our Squadron has entered a challenging time of need & a time of renewal. The SAL is a key & vitally important program of the American Legion in fulfilling one of the Legion’s 4 Pillars, Children & Youth, and it is incumbent upon all members to do what we can more than ever at this crucial time in our history to nurture and mentor our youth for the future of our great country.

Our Squadron has endured membership participation struggles in recent times that the COVID-19 situation has only served to greatly exacerbate. In addition to those, we have suffered the unexpected resignation of our immediate Past Commander and, as of August, the loss of our current Adjutant Richard Kettering due to his relocation to Ohio. We thank Rick for his long and dedicated service to our SAL Squadron as well as remembering him as one of the key members to the formation & success of SAL Squadron 209 over the years. He will be greatly missed and we wish him well in his new endeavors.

Rick's departure opens yet another leadership opportunity in our Squadron as Ken Taylor has temporarily assumed the responsibilities of Squadron Adjutant in addition to the already demanding responsibilities of his position as Squadron Finance Officer. Additionally, I find myself in the challenging position of fulfilling the duties of Squadron Commander as well as the currently vacant positions of Senior Vice & Junior Vice Commanders.

In short, we are in great need for our membership to step up and begin participating in ensuring the success of our Squadron. Those interested in participating to create that success should contact me in order to discuss the needs and leadership opportunities available.

SAL SQUADRON 209 PARTICIPATION INCENTIVE

To the end of encouraging increased membership participation, promoting Squadron visibility and developing Squadron esprit de corps (Group Spirit), Chaplain Brad Henderson & I presented at the last membership meeting, and passed by membership vote, an SAL Participation Reward whereby the Squadron will purchase an SAL Allegiance Polo (Color Navy Blue w/Red & White Left Sleeve & Blue Union w/ Embroidered stars on left shoulder, Fully embroidered SAL emblem on Chest) at a cost of \$45.00ea from Emblem Sales for any SAL Member who participates in 10 designated SAL & Post Family Activities within a 6-Month time period as verified & signed off by a Squadron Officer. The eligible activities are detailed on the Post SAL webpage in a downloadable participation checklist which may also be requested from any Squadron Officer.

THE 10 IDEALS

Also passed at July's Member Meeting were the guidelines I was asked to develop by Past Squadron Commander Eric Testorff, while I was serving as Junior Vice Commander, for achieving the completion of the SAL 10 Ideals Program whereby members may earn the 10 Ideals Medal. Like the Squadron 209 Five Star Program guidelines created years ago by Rick Kettering, this guideline & checklist is designed to assist any member in their pursuit of the ideals & skills, as recognized by the achievement of the 10 Ideals Medal, that help us better understand what true Americanism & "Legionism" is while guiding the understanding & development of leadership skills that help to forge a well-rounded person & citizen. The 10 Ideals Completion Checklist is downloadable from the Post SAL webpage and may also be requested from any Squadron Officer.

SUPPORTING OUR FAMILY

Our Squadron Members also volunteered to provide & staff a lunch to support our Post American Legion Riders Poker Run on 24 July and I'm pleased to report that while doing so our Squadron generated approximately \$270 toward the Squadron General Fund. Additionally, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous ALR Donor, our Post Legion Riders have offered a donation to our Squadron of \$500 for our assistance with their event. Thanks goes out to Chaplain Brad Henderson, District Commander Lino Calica and SAL Member Rob Barry for volunteering to assist me with the preparation, cooking and serving of the lunch to the Poker Run Participants.

HAWAIIAN NIGHT FUNDRAISER

I'm also very excited to announce that Current District Commander, Past Post Commander Lino Calica & his wife Susan have very generously offered to hold one of their famous Hawaiian Nights on 22 October 2021 as a fundraiser for the benefit of SAL Squadron 209. More details to come.

It is also my intent to continue our Squadron's commitment to the Child Welfare Fund (CWF) that for years we have given very generously to by consistently exceeding the 100% membership donation goal as both a Squadron and Post.

Finally, I also intend to adopt during my term as SAL Squadron 209 Commander a focus on the revival within our Squadron & Post of 'The American's Creed' created by William Tyler Page and accepted by the United States Congress in April 1918. Crafted during another time of challenge as America fought in WWI, the goal was to achieve the briefest possible summary of American political faith, founded upon fundamentals most distinctive in American history and tradition as something to reunite a troubled country. I'm currently finishing a brief history of Mr. Page & 'The American's Creed' that I hope to present in a future Post newsletter.

The American's Creed by William Tyler Page

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a republic, a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

Brian Wess
SAL Commander



FROM OUR POST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

I was recently approached at another Veteran's organization meeting by a dual member of that organization and our Post. He told me he was unhappy about something that took place at Post 209 a while back. I explained to him that this was an issue that was voted on and approved by our members at a general membership meeting. I asked him if he had cast a negative vote and he replied that he was not at the meeting because he never received a letter informing him that said issue would be voted on at the general membership meeting. My response was our general membership meetings are routinely on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00AM as posted in our monthly newsletter and that our members do not need a special letter of invitation to attend those meetings. He continued to tell me how unhappy he was with the decision on that issue. My response was "since you didn't attend the meeting you allowed those that did to vote for you, and you have lost the right to complain.

I attended our general membership meeting this August and we had 33 members present, two of those were brand new members. With over 1100 members in Post 209, that's less than 10% to show up at the meeting that only happens once a month. Folks, we have numerous issues discussed at that meeting that concern our Post and how we serve the Veterans of our community. We have numerous motions made some of which are passed and some defeated but it's by those members who show up at the meeting that the decisions are made for the rest of our members. I am not saying that everyone needs to attend the membership meetings, what I am saying is if you don't attend the meetings don't complain about the decisions that are made by those who do.

Art Kimbrel
Post Executive Committeeman



THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TALARC)

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, around the world**, or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones.

It's **fun, social, educational, and can be a lifeline during times of need.**

Want more information?

Call, email or text me.

73 (Best regards) – Harvey W 1 J U 331-1212 mbca@comcast.net



FROM OUR AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Still plenty of warm days ahead, but cooler temperatures won't stop the American Legion Post 209 Riders from taking to the roads. We participated in both local and out of town events. Members participated in the Hogback Twister Run in Boulder and ROMP Site Survey in Buena Vista, and the Ride for the Blue and Wade Newborn Memorial locally. Upcoming events include the CVMA High Altitude Poker Run, SFMC Scavenger Hunt/Rodeo, Salute to American Veterans Rally and POW/MIA Recognition Ride, and Northern Colorado Ride & Roast. Of note, major upcoming events are the Neal Thomas Jr. Memorial Ride and Homeless Veterans Stand-Down. Our ALR schedule is in full swing and our riders are happy to support these worthwhile events. Ride Safe!

Ed Santos

ALR President



FROM OUR AUXILIARY UNIT SECRETARY

The 2021 Department of Colorado Auxiliary Convention was held June 24-27, 2021. Each unit competes with other units of like size and then the winners of each group compete against each other for the State award. Unit 209 (our Unit) received the following awards at the Awards' Presentation on June 25th:

- Americanism – 2nd Place Group 4
- Constitution and Bylaws – 1st Place, Group 3
 - STATE – 1st Place
- Children & Youth – 1st Place – Group 4
 - STATE – 3rd Place
- Community Service – 3rd Place – Group 4
- Education – 3rd Place – Group 4
- Leadership – 2nd Place – Group 4
- National Security – 1st Place – Group 4
 - STATE – 1st Place
- PPP – 3rd Place – Group 4
- Public Relations – 3rd Place – Group 4
- VA&R – 2nd Place, Group 4
- History Book – STATE – 1st Place

These awards are based on the year-end report that is submitted on April 15th of each year. This is WHY reporting your volunteer hours, mileage, and money donated is so important to the Unit.

Pat Weaver

Unit Secretary



FROM OUR HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN

The Honor Guard has been busy as usual. As of this writing, there have been 81 events the Honor Guard has participated in so far this year with no sign of things slowing down. Of the 81 events, 71 were supporting the military services with a rifle team for Final Honors or performing the full Final Honors ourselves. Of the 81 events, 10 were supporting the Presentation of Colors and flag presentations for schools/youth. Of the 81 events, there have been 2 so far that we were requested to support from other areas; 1. Talk to youth about the flag at the Ted Nugent Kamp For Kids in Granite, CO, and 2. Support the Navy with a rifle team for a Veteran's Final Honors at Fort Lyon National Cemetery in Las Animas, CO. There are numerous Final Honors and Presentation of Colors on the calendar for the remainder of August (5), September (1), and October (3) with requests starting to come in for November – obviously those number will continue to grow.

Those are some interesting numbers that shows how big of an impact we have in support of OUR Veterans and OUR Community. There is a ***more important*** number to know about that impacts OUR Veterans, it is the number 9. The number 9 is the number of Veteran's who did not receive their full Final Honors in July and so far in August. There were 2 of those that the Honor Guard was committed to supporting and had to back out. There were also 2 of those that we received very late requests to support (less than 24 hours). The other 5 were requests that came in and there were not enough personnel available to support and we had to turn down the request. All 9 of these Final Honors only needed a 3-person rifle team in order to be able to support.

The Honor Guard currently has 10 primary and 4 backup/support members. The 10 members include 8 American Legion Post members, 1 Sons of the American Legion member, and 1 American Legion Auxiliary member. For the American Legion members, 8 is less than 1% of the Post's membership and the majority of the 8 are currently employed. In order to help augment those numbers, we are going to be reaching out to the other American Legion Posts in the area. A recruitment strategy is being developed to try to get more Honor Guard members from these Posts and possibly other VSOs (e.g., VFW, DAV) so that the number 9 does not keep growing and OUR Veterans receive the Final Honors they earned and deserve (just like the rest of us have).

As I said in last month's article, while not everyone has a lot of time to participate in the Honor Guard, all someone needs is the time to participate a night or two for training meetings and even just one event a month. A meeting or two and one event a month is only 3-5 hours. Those 3-5 hours makes a difference for a Veteran and their family. Those 3-5 hours a month can also make a difference for you! If 10 to 15 members of the Legion, Sons, or Auxiliary *gave back* with 3-5 hours a month, the Honor Guard could possibly double the number of Final Honors we participate in – and more importantly not have to turn down requests. Even if you do not have 3-5 hours a month, you can still help the Honor Guard by telling others in the Legion, Sons, or Auxiliary (Post 209 or other Posts in the area) about what the Honor Guard does and the importance of growing in order to meet the increase of requests to support OUR Veterans. Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary members are able to perform every activity that an American Legion Member does *except* the presentation of the flag or presentation of the expended rounds to the family. If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please reach out to me at: (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org.

Veteran's Day is approaching soon and we are already receiving requests for the Honor Guard to support school programs during the week, in addition to planning for participation in the Veteran's Day Parade (COVID permitting). Traditionally, there is a place on the website that schools can sign up to have the Honor Guard support their programs/activities. The Honor Guard will soon be

making the decision whether or not to activate the link based on the expected support available. While we will do everything we can to support OUR Community, supporting OUR Veteran's Final Honors will always take priority.

Joel Haas
Honor Guard Captain



FROM OUR POST CHAPLAIN

“Time and Talents”

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers...” (Ephesians 4:11)

One of the most interesting worship services I have attended happened on a Sunday before Labor Day. We normally dressed in “church attire”, but this day would be different. The pastor asked us to dress in our “work clothes.” The chapel filled with carpenters, soldiers, utility workers, nurses, businessmen, mechanics, farmers, bakers, homemakers, teachers and more – the people that were our community.

The Bible opens with God (Gen. 1-1) and the first thing we read about God is that He created the heavens and the earth. In other words, God first appears in Scripture as a worker. He placed the first humans in a garden “to tend and keep it.” (Gen 2:15)

God wants Christians to take responsibility to provide for their material needs and those of their families. God has created a world of resources for this purpose. He gives us authority, along with strength and skills, to use those resources to earn our living. Work is His gift to us, a means of supplying what we need. “...and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor – it is the gift of God” (Eccl 3:13). It doesn't matter what you do for a living. Your work has dignity and value. It matters to God.

So - what are you working for? Is it to draw a paycheck? Earning a living is important, but it is only part of God's intention for work. Ultimately, we are to be signposts pointing toward His kingdom. Through our job-related responsibilities, we have an opportunity to be like the citizens of Zion: “priests of the Lord” and “servants of our God.” Imagine if you were one of the workers hired to do temple repairs. Based on your past performance, would your work be so well done and your character so honest that no one needed to check up on whether you were doing the job with integrity? In Ephesians 6:5-9, Paul challenges us to work with “sincerity of heart” and to pay close attention to the work itself, which he calls “doing the will of God.” That's what impresses one's employer, and that's what pleases God.

Sometimes, our time and our talents (such as we can spare) are needed outside the workplace. There are needs and opportunities in our Post, and in our Sons of The American Legion Squadron. We are dedicated to the service of God and Country in a variety of programs, tasks, and projects; but we need more than the handful of members who attend our monthly meetings. “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few, therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” Think about it.

Brad Henderson
Chaplain



WE WILL GO ON!

Through the blackness, there is the dawn.
The light of freedom, still burns strong.
We are bent, but unbroken.
With quiet conviction, defiantly spoken.
Harm one, you harm all.
And by that harm, you too shall fall.

Our history has seen this before.
Our country has often felt war.
We are more than concrete & steel.
We are more than we each alone feel.
Different heritages, one by choice.
A diverse chorus, but one voice.

We are Free!
We are Strong!
We are American!
And WE WILL GO ON!

Brian Wess



**PLEASE JOIN US ON 11
SEPTEMBER AS WE
REMEMBER AND HONOR
THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR
LIFE 20 YEARS AGO. WE
WILL HAVE A 9/11
REMEMBRANCE
CEREMONY AT 5:00PM,
FOLLOWED BY A DINNER
AT 6:00PM.**





AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



WALK OF HONOR

Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

We are re-introducing an exciting fundraiser for our Post. We are partnering with Polar Engraving to offer our members, family, friends, and our corporate Veteran-friendly supporters an opportunity to purchase an engraved brick to adorn our landscaping project we are working. The engraving uses the same technology as used on tombstones so it's extremely durable. Here are some FAQs:

- **What Are We Having?** A Brick Fundraising Event
- **Why?** To Further Funding of our American Legion Programs
- **What Size Are the Bricks?** 4"x 8" or 8"x 8" bricks for individuals, and 8"x 8" or 12"x 12" bricks for our corporate supporters.
- **What are the Costs for the Individual Bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style and lettering desired, but typically range from \$75 to \$200. For the 8x8 or 12x12 bricks, you can add a second emblem. Contact the Adjutant for ordering details. There is **NO** additional cost for the second emblem on the larger bricks.
- **What are the Costs for the Corporate/Veteran Supporter Bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$125 to \$500.
- **What is the Difference between Individual and Corporate Bricks?** Individual bricks are identified for Veterans, and family members of Veterans wishing to purchase a brick to honor their Veteran. The corporate bricks are for our Veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who wish to show their continued support to our Nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the Brick Purchase Restricted to Members of the Post 209 Family?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves as a lasting memory of their association with Post 209. We also welcome anyone to purchase a brick for their Veteran loved one, or to show their support to our Veterans.
- **Can I Buy a 12"x 12" Brick for Myself/Loved One?** Absolutely!
- **Where Do I Go to Buy a Brick?** 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 very user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. You will be able to see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How Do I Pay For the Brick?** We have the site setup to accept payment via PayPal or by check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where Will the Brick Be Shipped?** All bricks will be shipped to the Post. We will notify you when it arrives and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- **What Will Become of My Brick?** It will be placed near the Flagpole at the Post and will be part of the landscaping design we are working. If you are a landscaper or know a good one (preferably a Veteran), have them contact our Adjutant.
- **How Long Will this Fundraiser Effort Last?** We plan to only sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project. Currently, that is anticipated to be 600 bricks, but that number may change depending on brick sizes purchased and the final design approved by the Post.
- **Will I Have an Opportunity to Buy a Brick Later?** Quite possibly. It depends on what is decided/approved for the next phase of our project.



Order your brick(s) now to ensure you get one in Phase One of our project. If you buy multiple bricks, let our Adjutant know and we will make certain they are all placed together.

BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST



Seeing the ads on TV and in the newspaper (yes, I still get the newspaper every morning) with all the “Back to School” sales, I’m reminded of my days at Oakhaven in Memphis.

Things were pretty simple all the way up through the 6th grade. We didn’t have many textbooks, and really the only supplies we had to lug around was a ruled notebook, a couple of #2 lead pencils, a 12” ruler and a box of crayons. From about the 1st through the 6th grade, we used the notebook bound at the top perforated so we could tear the pages out and turn in our school assignments and homework. The notebook had two solid horizontal lines with a dotted line half-way between the solid lines. If we were writing something requiring using capitalization (upper case for you young’uns), we would start the letter at the top solid line and finish the letter at the bottom solid line. If we were writing uncapitalized (lower case) letters, that’s when we used the dotted lines for the top of the letter and the bottom solid line to finish. Of course, there were a few exceptions to that. For example, lower case letters like “b,” “d,” and “f” required us to use the two solid lines as our references.

What few textbooks we had were typically handed down from the previous year unless there was a major revision, which was seldom. We’d take the textbooks home and Mom would give us one of her many paper bags she saved from grocery shopping. Our job was to cut them up, fold, and tape them to the outside of the textbooks to use as book covers. This was a multi-purpose cover. It protected the textbook from scratches, water damage, and normal wear and tear. We wrote the title of the textbook on the front cover so we’d know which it was without having to open the book, and we also put our name on the cover to show ownership. Additionally, it gave us a canvas to display our artwork to our friends.

When we graduated to 7th grade, Jr. High (referred to as Middle School nowadays), things got a little more complicated. We didn’t spend all day in one room. While a few of our classes met in our homeroom, there were a few classes where we had to move to another room in the same wing.

We got away from the 3-line notebook and graduated to a 2-line notepaper that required us to have a 3-ring binder. The new paper with only two solid lines meant we had to develop a new way of writing. The two lines were much narrower than what we had grown accustomed to for the past six years. We had to gauge the distance between the two lines when writing lower case letters. And almost all our writing was done in cursive; a system taught to us as we progressed through grade school. We rarely printed anything.

Our supplies also increased quite a bit. Not only were we required to have a couple of #2 pencils, we also had to have an ink pen. We still needed our 12” ruler, but no crayons were required. Instead, we had to have a compass (not the kind that shows magnetic North), and a protractor. The last two items were required for Math. Back then, the only calculators we had were in our head. And I think the batteries in my head-culator never re-charged.

We also had several more textbooks. I remember going to the Bookstore to get my supplies and get issued my textbooks. We had a slip of paper showing our name, what grade we were in, and what teacher we had for a particular subject. The lady running the Bookstore used that to determine what and how many textbooks were needed. We didn’t have to pay for the textbooks, but we had to take care of them and turn them back in at the end of the school year. If we didn’t have the required notebook paper, writing utensils, or Math supplies, we could buy them at the Bookstore. We didn’t have Office Max or Staples. But we could count on Sears and the Ben Franklin five and dime for those basic school supplies.

None of my friends nor I wanted a new textbook. It was too hard to keep clean and undamaged. Also, often the textbooks had things either highlighted or underlined from a previous owner that normally indicated the answer to a test question, which made the textbook very valuable. Most of my friends (myself included), weren’t in school to learn, we were there to learn how to pass a test. The highlights and underlining made that a much easier task. Then at the end of the year, we’d take our slightly more used textbooks back to the Bookstore to turn them back in to the lady managing the store. She filed away those little slips of paper that had notes related to the condition of each textbook. Other than normal wear and tear, if the book had markings, torn pages or water damage, we would have to pay a fine. The amount of the fine was pretty arbitrary. It often was anywhere from a nickel to a half-dollar. If it was severely damaged, it could cost a couple of bucks. And until we “cleared” our turn in with the Bookstore, we didn’t get our final report card. We also had to clear out and clean out our locker prior to getting that final report card. Normally, I would not have cared about getting it, but we also didn’t know if we passed or failed the year until we saw it on the card. And there were a few years I had no idea which it would be until I saw it in writing. Well, with the exception of the 10th and 12th grade. I knew I flunked the 10th grade (Yuck! Summer School), and I knew I had passed the 12th grade because I finally woke up and actually made the Honor Roll for a few of the six-weeks reports. I still cringe just a little when I see those ads.

Jay Bowen

Past Post Commander



September 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Auxiliary Dinner is Cancelled for September to prepare for the 9/11			1	2 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	3 Price Varies w/Menu Hamdogger 6:00pm 	4
			National Convention - Phoenix			
5	6 Labor Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	7	8	9 Young Guns 6:30pm 	10	11 Patriot Day Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00 9/11 Ceremony/Dinner 5:00pm/6:00pm
12 ALR R.O.M.P. Buena Vista	13 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	14	15	16 Young Guns 6:30pm 	ALR Ride On Military Pride - Buena Vista	
					17 \$15.00 Meal Steak Night! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	18
19	20 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	21 Annual Homeless Standdown ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm 	22 Start of Fall	23 Young Guns 6:30pm   TALARC EC Meeting 5:00pm	24 \$10.00 Meal Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required!  Trivia Night!	25 Healing Warriors 9:00am
26 Annual Neal Thomas Jr. Memorial Run - ALR	27 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:30pm	28 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	29	30 Young Guns 6:30pm 	Notes:	

October Events of Note:

Trivia Night! – 8 October

Columbus Day! – 11 October

Healing Warriors – 23 October

Trunk or Treat! – 30 October

For schedule updates and more information, visit our website at www.legion209.org