

Centennial Post 209 The American Legion

September 2001



Legion News
Charles J. Zeitvogel
Commander

General Membership Meetings:

Events for coming General Membership meetings are listed below. Try to make these interesting meetings. Meeting Times and locations are noted elsewhere in this newsletter. Coming events include:

20 September – Briefing on events of the National Convention in San Antonio, TX by Past Commander Neal Thomas. Past Commander Francis Redington will demonstrate and speak about participation in the Junior Rifle Team Programs.

18 October – Member initiation. This is not a college hazing rather a ceremony befitting our organization. You should make plans on attending this ceremony.

15 November – District 7 officials will visit our Post.

Also in November will be the Early Bird Dinner. This is for all who renew their membership before 31 October.

December will be the Annual Christmas Party. Time and Place to be announced.

Picnic: Sunday, 26 August was the date for our annual Post 209 picnic. Thanks to Norm Moyer, Jr. Vice Commander, for arranging for the Palmer Park facilities and

to Larry Johnson, Sr. Vice Commander, for cooking the various meat entries. Also, another thanks to everyone who brought the wonderful side dishes of food to share. Our picnics are getting better every year. I believe everyone who attended the picnic had a wonderful time.

Veterans Stand Down: This event took place on Wednesday, 29 August at the City civic Auditorium. It was to help veterans in our local area. Many of our Post and Auxiliary members participated in this event that was sponsored by the El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition. An extra big thanks to Past Commander Harry Johnson, who is serving as the President of the Coalition, for his work in organizing and coordinating this event. Surely, the homeless that benefited from this event appreciate everyone's work.

Bingo: Post 209 is no longer sponsoring Saturday Morning Bingo games. We still sponsor Tuesday night Bingo games at The Bingo Depot, 3958 N Academy Blvd. Workers arrive between 5:30 and 6: P.M. to get ready for the games that start at 7:30 P.M. Legionnaires and Auxiliary members are welcome to either play or assist in the conduct of the bingo games. Should you have questions regarding bingo, call the office and leave a message or bring the questions to the bingo hall.

Lot News: Saturday, 18 August, the grass and weeds on the lot were cut. Drive by and take a look at it and see the wonderful view of the mountains from our location at the intersection of Austin Bluffs Pkwy and Old Farm Road.

OFFICERS

Commander	Chuck Zeitvogel
Sr. Vice Cdr.	Larry Johnson
Jr. Vice Cdr.	Norm Moyer
Adjutant	Ann Foster
Finance Officer	Greg Andries
Historian	Harry Mc Fadden
Sgt-at-Arms	Robert Rydell
Chaplain	Howard Hornik
Judge Advocate	Alton Cyriaque
Service Officer	Tom Morant
Post Exec Committeeman	Neal Thomas

Dues \$ 25.00

Auxiliary Officers

President	Dorothy Dassero
Secretary	Barbara Johnson
Treasurer	Barbara Johnson
Chaplain	Marcia Shellhammer
Sgt-at-Arms	Ruth Hornik

Dues \$ 15.00

**AUXILIARY MEETING THE THIRD THURSDAY
EACH MONTH**

AT THE POST'S OFFICE ON AUSTIN BLUFFS
PARKWAY
1:30 P.M.

Post Meeting
3rd Thursday – 7:00 P.M.
VFW Post 4051, 431 Pikes Peak Ave
Colorado Springs

**EDITOR
DOROTHY DASSERO**

OFFICE
4291 AUSTIN BLFFS PKWY STE 104
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80918-2944
719-599-8624

MEMBERSHIP ELEGIBILITY

WORLD WAR I
APR 6, 1917 – NOV 11, 1918

WORLD WAR II
Dec 7, 1941 – Dec 31, 1946

KOREAN WAR
Jun 25, 1960 – Jan 31, 1956

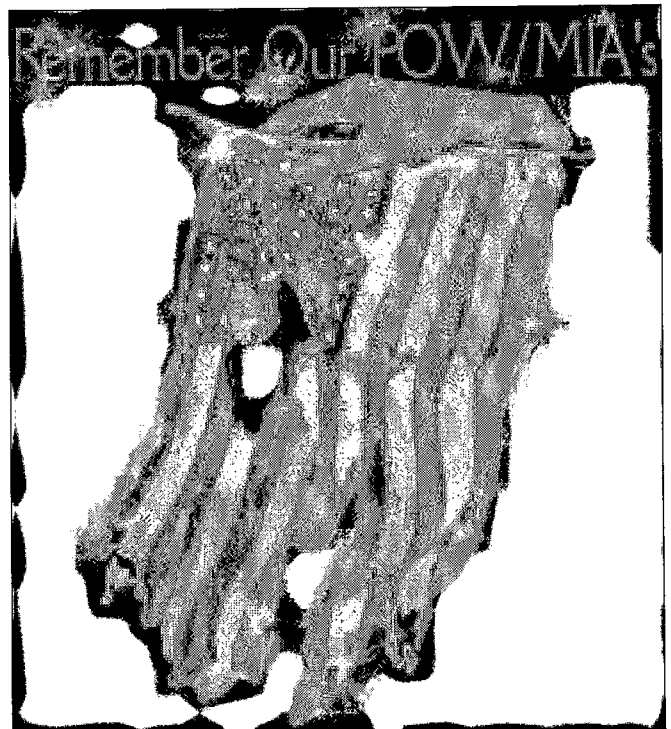
VIETNAM WAR
Dec 22, 1961 – May 7, 1975

GRENADA & LEBANON
AUG 24, 1982- -- JULY 31, 1990

PERSIAN GULF
AUG 2, 1990 –UNTIL THE END OF HOSTILITIES



**From the President
Dot Dassero**



Assistance Available:

Veterans needing assistance are invited to contact our Post Service Officer Tom Morant or Chaplain Howard Hornik. They are available to consult and provide guidance within local resources or elevate your concerns to a higher echelon for resolution within The American Legion. Contact them by calling the office and leaving a message for them. When doing this please be sure to leave your full name, address and telephone number so they can get back to you.



From the Post Historian

Harry Mc Fadden

I first would like to thank God and those who had the faith to elect me once again as the Historian for the Post and as the District 7 Chaplain. I'll do the very best that I can just as I have in the past. If you have questions on what the Post Historian does and how to put together scrap books I will be more than happy to meet with you and show you how The American Legion recommends we do ours.

I would like to end my column with this:
I never walk alone, for the lord walks with me,
He is the dearest friend that I've ever known since birth;
With such a friend as he is to comfort and to guide me,
For I never, never walk alone.



Adjutant Annotations

Ann Foster

While our membership renewals have slowed down, we are still doing quite well. We are now only five away from

65%. We just need 100 more to reach our goal of 271 for 2002. I really hope we can do that before the end of the year, so keep on sending in those renewals and sign a new member up to make up for those who have had to go elsewhere.

For those who may still be considering whether or not you can help with Bingo, just remember you only have to think of Tuesday evening now. One time a month at this session would be appreciated very much.

The 11th Annual Junior Air Rifle National Championship for The American Legion was excellent this year. There were 15 competitors in the Precision and Sporter categories. Two of the Precision shooters scored 800 out of 800 in the Prone Precision and one of those moved to the top of the list for All-Time Top 5 Scores since this program started. He is Matthew Rawlings from Texas. He has been invited to attend The American Legion National Convention as the 2001 National Champion. He is also invited to become a part of the National Development Team for the Olympics team of the future. Of the Sporter shooters, three are now in the second, third, and fourth positions of the All-Time Top 5 Scores. This is a really exciting event to take part in, so plan ahead for next year at this time. This may just be the event you might enjoy!

The Pikes Peak Or Bust Rodeo, 8 – 12 August, at the Penrose Equestrian Center was blessed with good weather this year. What little rain came was not a problem. The Appreciation Dinner given by Post 5 was very good. Unfortunately, I had to borrow a few people from the other organizations a couple of times to cover our assigned gate. Thus, our share of the proceeds this year will likely be smaller than the last few years. If you can help with this

event next year, please feel free to tell me at any time and I will add you to list of regulars.

On 18 August, I attended the annual POW-MIA Rally at Cripple Creek, CO. This is always a very moving event. This year's special guests were Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Ray Smith, The American Legion National Commander, and the National Commander of the EX POW-MIA group. The main speaker was John Michael McGrath, a former POW resident of the Hanoi Hilton. Department (Dept) attendees were Tom Bock, our National Executive Committeeman, Danny DuMiller, Dept Commander, Jeff Lugenbiel and B. J. Runchel, Past Dept Commanders, Pat Smith, Dept Adjutant and our Dept Photographer Dean Fordyce. The American Legion Riders and all of the other motorcycle riders were very impressive as they came in from Woodland Park. It is a good thing to take at least one time a year to remember those who have served during difficult times.

The American Legion Initiation Ceremony mentioned by our Post Commander is a very nice, simple, but meaningful short ceremony we would like to hold at our 18 October meeting. If you would like to be initiated, please let us know either in writing or by calling 599-8624. We need a count by 15 October in order to finalize the preparations for this event. Please consider coming as we would really like to do this for all who have never had the chance to be initiated.

What's Hot in the Post

September 2001

**SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION
BE WATCHFUL OF THE CHILDREN
THEY ARE OUR COUNTRIES FUTURE.**

- 3 Sep Post Exec Mtg. 6:30 P.M.
- 20 Sep Post General Membership Meeting 7:00 P.M. (VFW Post 4051)

October 2001

- 3 Oct Post Exec Mtg. 6:30 P.M.
 - 18 Oct Post General Membership Meeting 7:00 P.M. (VFW Post 4051)
- Initiation of members who have not been initiated

November 2001

- 7 Nov Post Exec Mtg. 6:30 P.M.
 - 11 Nov Veterans Day – Ceremonies at the Rock (Memorial Park) at 11:00 A.M.
 - 15 Nov Post General Membership Meeting 7:00 P.M. (VFW Post 4051)
- Early Bird Dinner 6:30 Social period, 7:00 P.M. Dinner SERVED
- 22 Nov Thanksgiving – have a wonderful time.

December 2001

- 5 Dec Post Exec Mtg. 6:30 P.M.
- 15 Dec Centennial 209 Annual Christmas Dinner. Social time 6:30 P.M. Dinner Served at 7:00 P.M.
Mark your calendar now to ATTEND



From the Sr. Vice Cdr

Larry Johnson

The Habit of Winning

Winning is not a sometime thing. You don't win once in a while. You don't do things right once in awhile. You do them right all the time.

Winning is a habit. Unfortunately, so is losing. There is no room for second place. There is only one place in my game and that is first place. I have finished second twice in my time at Green Bay and I don't ever want to finish second again. There is second place bowl game – but it is a game for losers played by losers. It is and always has been an American zeal to be first in anything we do, and to win, and to win.

Every time a football player goes out to play, he's got to play from the ground up. From the soles of his feet right up to his head. Every inch of him has to play. Some guys play with their heads. That's okay – you've got to be smart to be number one in any business, but more important, you've got to play with your heart. With every fiber of your body. If you are lucky enough to find a guy with a lot of head and a lot of heart, He's never going to come off the field second.

Running a football team is no different from running any other kind of organization – an army, a political party, a business. The problems are the same. The objective is to win, to beat the other guy. Maybe that sounds hard or cruel. I don't think it is.

It is a reality of life that men are competitive and the most competitive games draw the most competitive men. That's why they're there – to compete. They know the rules and the objectives when they get in the game. The objective is to win – fairly, squarely, decently, by the rules – but to win. And in truth, I have never known a man worth his salt who in the long run, deep down in his heart, did not appreciate the grind – the discipline. There is something in good men that really yearns for ... needs ... discipline and the harsh reality of head-to-head combat.

I don't say these things because I believe in the 'brute' nature of man, or that men must be brutalized to be combative. I believe in God, and I believe in human decency. But I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, his greatest fulfillment to all he holds dear, is the moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle victorious.

Vincent Lombardi

You've read this article by Vincent Lombardi. I ask you to read this article one more time. This time as you read it, think about how this article relates to you, The American Legion and Centennial Post 209. Keeping in mind that we just finished a season and emerged as a winner, and that we are starting a new season. Like most Professional Teams when they have a winning season and emerge as Number One in their field they strive to again emerge as winners.

Are YOU coming into the game ready to give what it takes to reach the highest plateau "The Winner" in the upcoming season? Is the Post playing from the ground up? Is YOUR head and heart in the game?

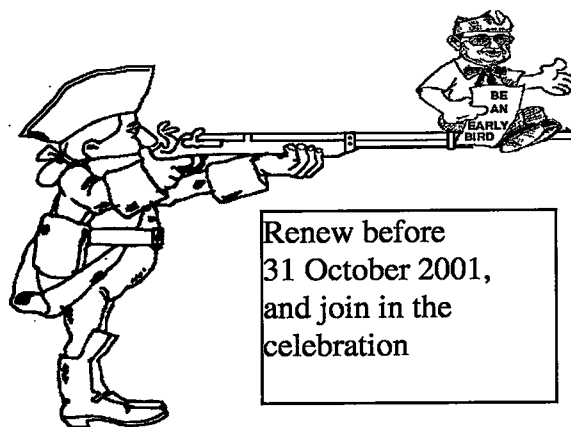
Every year, we as Legionnaires are asked to add more Legionnaires to our ranks. Do you know the reason? The obvious reason is "Membership Is The Life Blood of The American Legion". Without members there would be no Legion Programs. Without members we would have no voice on Capitol Hill. Without members there would be no accomplishments in assistance and support to veterans, their families, the community, state, and nation.

I know that you have heard this more than one time **"It is not the price you pay to belong, but the price you paid to be eligible to belong"**. More times than naught we are hesitant to ask other Veterans to become one of us, a member of The American Legion, because we are asking the veteran for his/her money and his/her time. Do you not feel, as a Legionnaire, this time and money will be well spent in advancing the many and various programs of The American Legion?

Right about now you're saying to yourself, "What are the Programs of The American Legion"? They are:

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), Assistance to needy children and families, College Scholarships to high school students, Veterans Administration Volunteer Services, Blood Donor Program, **High School Oratorical Contest, Boys State and Nation**, American Legion Baseball, School Awards, **Cub Packs**, Boy Scout, Explorer Units, **Flag Education Program**, Missing Children Programs, Teen-age Suicide Prevention Programs, Special Olympics, **The American Legion Auxiliary, The National Emergency Relief Fund, The Family Support Network**, The Flag Honor Guard, **Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion Junior Shooting Program, The American Legion Junior Auxiliary**, and many, many more. (NOTE: highlighted programs are ones that this Post is currently supporting or has supported in the past with the help of you, the members of Centennial 209).

The intangible benefits of membership, the ones that you can't put a dollar value to – the life-long friendships that develop from being actively involved with others. The leadership qualities one gains by holding offices. The sense of accomplishment you feel after seeing a project through to a successful completion. And most importantly, the self-satisfaction of knowing that just being a member you are helping others less fortunate than yourself.



Renew before
31 October 2001,
and join in the
celebration

Membership in The American

Legion is a matter of PRIDE:

PRIDE in Tradition
PRIDE in Heritage
PRIDE in Accomplishment
PRIDE in Serving
PRIDE in Belonging

Don't be hesitant or be apologetic, ASK them to JOIN, ASK them to RENEW – NOW.



I need you to become involved with the Programs and Activities of The American Legion and Centennial Post 209

VA Expands Agent Orange Registry

On Thursday, 2 August 2001, there was an email posted that indicated the VA had expanded the registry for Agent Orange to include Veterans who came in contact with the herbicide at Fort Drum N.Y. Fort Drum was added to the list after the Department of the Army

acknowledged that testing of the herbicide was conducted at Fort Drum during 1959. Last year the VA added Veterans who were in Korea during 1968 and 1969 near the Demilitarized Zone

Portable Oxygen Systems

The VA has entered into an agreement with Bell Enterprise Corporation to provide a secure device to hold the potable oxygen tank while riding or driving in a vehicle.

Sometimes the tanks will freeze if not kept upright. Also the tank could become a projectile in a collision.

In order to get this device, all you should have to do is contact the VA Clinic in Colorado Springs and Pueblo or the VA in Denver for the proper procedures in obtaining the safety device.

TYPE II DIABETES

In January, the VA put out that veterans who served in Vietnam from 9 January 1962 to 7 May 1975 and have developed Diabetes after they were released/retired from the military should file a claim through the VA. The reason for this is that Diabetes has been added to the list of compensational diseases connected to Agent Orange.

A Veteran or a surviving member of a deceased Vietnam Veteran who died at least in part due to Type 2 diabetes, should file an informal claim stating that the claimant is seeking disability benefits (or, for survivors, death benefits) because the disability (or death) was due to Type 2 diabetes which resulted from Agent Orange exposure; and if due to Type 2 which results from Agent Orange; and if such a claim has been denied in the past.

An informal claim need merely be a letter. But be advised the more information that you can provide the better off you will be.

For further information you can contact the El Paso County Veteran Affairs office located at 105 North Spruce Street in Colorado Springs, or by calling 719-444-5625 and they can answer questions and guide you in the correct manner.

VA Proposes Raise in Non-Service Connected Medication Co-Payments

The VA has proposed that the \$ 2.00 co-pay per prescription per month be raised by 300% to \$ 7.00 per medicine per month.

As it stands now if you are taking ten prescriptions you pay \$ 20.00 per month and you are provided enough medication for three months at a cost of \$ 60.00. Under the proposal it would cost you \$ 70.00 per month. And for a three month supply the cost would be \$ 210.00. This will not affect service-connected medication.

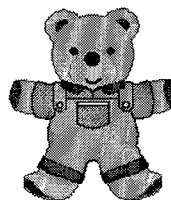
You can let the VA know how you feel on this by writing the Department of Veteran Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20420.

We need to get letters into the VA by 10 September telling them we are not in favor of the increase in Co-Pay.

I realize that it isn't much time to react but because of the time frame that I discovered this email on the internet and when our newsletters go to print it makes it hard to get this information out in a timely manner.

El Paso County Veterans Affairs Office

If you have questions or need assistance in filing out the require forms and gathering information for the filing of a claim please go down to the El Paso County Veterans Affairs Office located at 105 North Spruce Street in Colorado Springs or call 719-444-5625 and they will gladly help you.



Sickness
And
Distress
Bear

Everyone
now and then
needs a hug.

This month the Newsletter was typed by Larry Johnson. We all know how I type so all the mistakes you find are mine.

If you would like to contact me in regards to the many mistakes you find, please do so. (I'll know someone read the newsletter)

My telephone number is 719-622-0344, you can call but I can't guarantee you that I will be home to receive your call.

Whatever, I hope that everyone has a safe and fun Labor Day Weekend. See you soon.

Larry Johnson