

The Centennial



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September 2017

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Mike Barger

Wow, can you believe it's September already? It seems like each year, they go by faster and faster. Before you know it, summer will be gone and the snow will be flying again.

A follow up to the story I wrote about last month about one of our own members needing a stair lift installed in his house. It turns out that his service verification does not meet the qualifications for him to receive the stair lift, so Acorn is unable to do anything for him at this time. Also, it appears that he has taken a turn for the worse, and is in hospice now. The family thanks us for all the hard work we have put into this effort, and just asks that we keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

A positive sign we saw last month was a great turnout for Steak Night and Chef's Surprise night. It's sure nice to see the dining area full of folks eating and enjoying each other's company, and hopefully this continues. Invite your friends down for a dinner. They don't have to be a member to come, but it could be an opportunity to recruit them, if they qualify to be a member, but remember to RSVP. And if you have an idea on what you'd like to see us do for a meal on Chef's Surprise night, let us know. It was suggested to do a build your own subs and salad night in August, and it was a huge success. It's nice to change the menu, for it will help bring in other folks. I know we need to do a better job of communicating to you all and we are working on this. Thanks to those that have stepped up and volunteered their time during these events and all events this last month.

Now to recruiting. Did you know that National spends \$250,000 when sending out the renewal notices, and they do it five times a year? That's a big chunk of change that could be used elsewhere within the Legion programs. When you get your renewal notice, please pay it early and not wait till the end of the year. Right now Department has a Membership Blitz going on, and the goal is to get to 80% by Sept. 15th. If we're fortunate enough to get there, we would be in line to receive a nice award. Please make sure to encourage your friends to renew or join by that date. Our membership goal for the 2017-18 year is 1037. This is the first year in a very long time that the Legion has fallen to under 2 million members. Now is the time to step up and communicate the 4 pillars that the Legion is built on and sell the Legion to our community, state and nation and help get those numbers back up. We really need to work hard on getting our younger veterans to join, for they are the ones that will continue to move this organization forward in the future. If we don't, the Legion will be an afterthought, and that won't be good for veterans.

Congratulations to the Riders for another successful Poker Run. It's sure nice to see all the people milling around the Post and spending their money on raffle items and live auction items up for bid. If interested in helping, our Fundraising committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 pm. They are coming up with some great ideas that will bring in limited funds, but are still looking for ideas on the one or two events we can do on a yearly basis to bring in big bucks.

Post 209 will be holding a Flu Shot clinic here at the Post on 9/9 from 8:30 until after the general membership meeting. Insurance accepted is Tricare, Medicare, Aetna and United Healthcare. Sign up sheets will be a all Friday night dinners, so you can RSVP a slot. Make sure to bring your Insurance Card/ID to the clinic.



From the Unit 209 President
Cathy Barger

The last couple of months have been very busy months. The District 7 Ice Cream Social on August 12 was a great hit at the McCandless nursing home. All that participated had a wonderful time and we met some interesting veterans.

We also hosted the Girls State dinner on August 13th. We had the pleasure to have some of the girls that Unit 209, Legion, SAL and Riders sponsored, come to speak at the dinner and let us know what their experience was like.

Our monthly membership meeting is on September 9th, so come down and join us for breakfast at 9:00 am, and our meeting at 10:00 am. We will be providing a Flu Shot clinic on this same day from 8:30 to after the meeting, so make sure to bring your Insurance Card/ID with you. Tricare, Medicare, Aetna and United Healthcare insurance will be accepted. Signup sheets will be at all Friday night dinners, so make sure to RSVP for this.

Thanks to all that have supported our Christmas ornament fundraiser so far. The sale of the Christmas Ornament is still ongoing for the price of \$15.00 each.

We will not be participating in the "All Patient Day Activities" in Pueblo on September 16th this year.

Also, I'd like to thank our Legion Riders for offering to let us do a breakfast fundraiser for the ALR 2nd Annual Poker Run on the 27th of August. Thanks to everyone that helped cook and serve the breakfast and for helping with set up and tear down.

We have the Homeless Veteran Stand down occurring October 17th. We've been asked to help provide meals for the Veterans and their family, so keep an eye out for more information on this.

I want to wish Pat and Marvin Weaver a Happy 50th Anniversary.

Happy Birthday to Cleo Allgood, Lisa (Marie) Brandt, Carmalita Duenas, Ayanna Espinola, Barbara Fisher, Amy Mitchell, Linda Mussmann, Judith (Judy) Nelson, Ruby Ridpath, Addy Smith, Joyce Taylor and Veronica Zeitvogel. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

For more details on what is going on at the Post, please look at the calendar at the end of this newsletter.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!



From the Adjutant
Marvin Weaver, Jr.

Membership renewals are going good so far to this year. The Post is already at 50% of our goal from Department. As incentive to renew early we are having an Early Bird Dinner on October 27th. What does that mean? If you have renewed or joined as a new member for 2018 prior to October 15th you get a free dinner from the Post. All you have to do to be eligible for this dinner is to pay your 2018 dues before this date and RSVP for the dinner. Sign up a new member, and the Commander will pay for your dinner of your choosing on a Friday night.

Department is having its Recruiting Drive again this year. For every new American Legion member you recruit, your name is entered in a drawing. They will have a drawing on each of the national target dates; giving away \$100 each time. The first drawing will be September 14th. The more new members you recruit the more chances you have to win. We had two winners last year from the Post.

The District 7 Fall Conference will be hosted by Post 2008 and will be held at the Latigo Grill in Black Forest on October 15, 2017 starting at 11:00am. Officers from Department will be down to fill us in on what is happening with the Department of Colorado. There will be an Oktoberfest theme to the Conference. Wear your Lederhosen!

From the Junior Vice Commander - September

Jerry Lollar

Re-printed from The American Legion website at www.legion.org

POW/MIA Advocacy

The American Legion is committed to achieving a full accounting of all POW/MIAs from the Gulf War, Vietnam War, Cold War, Korean War and World War II. This means returning living POWs, the repatriation of their remains, or finding convincing evidence why neither of these is possible.

The American Legion supports the continued declassification of all POW/MIA information, the strengthening of joint commissions with Russia, North Korea and China, and adequate resourcing of investigative efforts and field operations to resolve POW/MIA issues. The American Legion has also worked continuously with both Congress and DOD to improve the policies and programs for the accountability of missing persons. This includes urging the president and Congress to fully fund the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Office (DPAA) for its current and future mission of ensuring the accountability of U.S. service members. The American Legion will continue to speak out and exert maximum pressure on both the administration and on Congress to fully account for America's POW/MIAs.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

For years, The American Legion supported a National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is now recognized annually on the **third Friday of September**. This commemoration is set aside to honor the commitment and sacrifices made by this nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as their families.

Until July 18, 1979, no commemoration was held to honor POW/MIAs. In the first year, Congress passed resolutions and the national ceremony was held at the National Cathedral in Washington. The 1st Tactical Squadron from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia flew the Missing Man formation. A poster was published by VA which contained only the letters POW/MIA. That continued until 1982, when a black and white drawing of a POW in captivity was used to show urgency of the situation.

Every year, National POW/MIA Recognition Day legislation was introduced until 1985, when Congress determined that commemorative days would no longer be considered. The president now signs a proclamation each year.

The National League of Families proposed the third Friday of September as a commemoration date. Most of the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies have taken place at the Pentagon. Now, they're held throughout the nation and around the world on military installations, ships, schools, churches, etc. The focus is to ensure that America remembers its responsibility to stand behind those who serve it and to make sure that we do all that is possible to account for those who have not returned.

POW/MIA Empty Chair

Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th American Legion National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States.

From the legion209.org Honor Guard Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQ) page:

What are Military Funeral Honors?

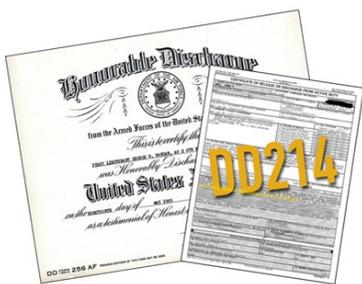
The basic Military Funeral Honors ceremony consists of the folding and presentation of the United States Flag to the veteran's family and the sounding of TAPS. The ceremony is performed by a Funeral Honors detail consisting of at least three members of the Armed Forces or a Veterans Service Organization such as the American Legion. We make every effort to see that the actual presenter of the flag is a member or former member of the branch of service in which the deceased served. TAPS may be played by a bugler or, if a bugler is not available, by using a quality recorded version. This basic ceremony is provided at no cost to every eligible veteran when requested.



Who is eligible to receive honors?

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors for United States Armed Forces veterans is a tribute that our veterans and their families justly deserve. Section 578 of the National Defense Authorization Act (beginning Fiscal Year 2000) requires the Department of Defense to provide, upon request, Military Funeral Honors for eligible veterans.

Any person (Active, National Guard or Reserve) who has completed at least one enlistment or other (officer) obligated military service and received a discharge under "honorable conditions" is eligible for Military Funeral Honors.



Military Funeral Honors may not be provided for any individual convicted of a capital offense under Federal or State law for which the person was sentenced to death or life without parole.

How do I establish veteran eligibility?

The preferred method is the DD Form 214: *Certificate of Release of Discharge from Active Duty*. If the DD Form 214 is not available, any discharge document showing *other than dishonorable* service can be used. The DD Form 214 may be obtained by faxing a request to 314-801-9195 using the Standard Form 180. This Standard Form 180 can be obtained at:

<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

and sent to:

**National Personnel Records Center,
Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100**

Who is eligible for a burial Flag?

The VA (Veterans Administration) establishes eligibility. Your Funeral Director will assist you in obtaining a Flag.

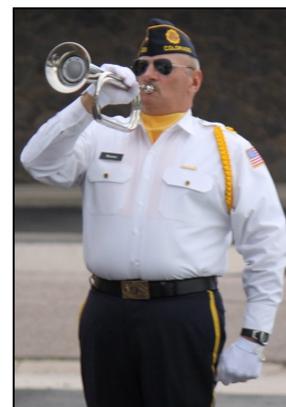
How do I request a VA-supplied grave marker?

Your Funeral Director will assist you or if you have questions about grave markers, family members can also write to the Veterans Administration at:

**Memorial Programs Service (403)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420**

How do I request Honors?

Family members of the deceased veteran should notify the Funeral Director of their desire to have Military Funeral Honors rendered at the interment of their loved one.



Continued on next page.

What Military Funeral Honors are appropriate?

BASIC MILITARY HONORS:

A Non-Retired Armed Forces Veteran will receive Basic Funeral Honors performed by the Honors team. The ceremony consists of:

- Sounding of TAPS
- Burial Flag Folding and Presentation

MODIFIED FULL MILITARY HONORS:

An Active Duty member not Killed in Action, a Retired service member or Retired National Guard or Reserve member not Killed in Action will receive Modified Full Honors consisting of the following:

- Casket or Urn Bearers
 - Sounding of TAPS
 - Firing of three rifle volleys (3 weapons)
- Burial Flag Folding and Presentation

FULL MILITARY HONORS:

A service member Killed in Action, a Medal of Honor recipient, a General Officer or Admiral, a Chief Warrant Officer 5th Class, and a Sergeant Major or other branch of service equivalent is entitled to a twenty-one-member Honors Team. This ceremony includes:

- Casket or Urn Bearers
- Sounding of TAPS
- Firing of three rifle volleys (5-7 weapons)
- Burial Flag Folding and Presentation
- Color Guard

PLEASE NOTE:

VSO's (Veterans Service Organizations) are generally not manned or equipped to provide Full Honors. "Full" or many times "Modified Full" Military Honors are customarily provided by an active military team from the deceased's branch of service. Many VSO's maintain ceremonial rifles, and the family may request three volleys. However, this is not customary in the case of Basic Military Honors.



From Squadron 209
Commander Ken Taylor

Squadron 209 membership for 2017 is at 106. If you haven't paid your 2017 dues please do so. Every member is important and we want your participation in our many worthwhile programs. The 2018 membership cards are here so be an "early bird" and renew now for the coming year. Don't forget, by renewing now, you will get a free dinner in October.

Is it time to clean out your closets? Squadron 209 is collecting used clothing for Veterans. We are accepting men's, women's and children's clothing to be distributed to Veterans and their families through the VA at Filmore and Centennial. Please bring your "gently used" items and place them in the box at the front entrance to the Post. We will be collecting clothing through Thanksgiving.

We have also started a project to build wooden urns to hold the unclaimed ashes of Veterans. Many Veteran's ashes go unclaimed because they have no family to take them or the family can't afford an urn. The ashes are placed in a plastic container which will fit inside the urns we are building. They will be distributed as needed to funeral homes for use at cemeteries, as well as the new National Veterans Cemetery in Colorado Springs.

The Shot Heard Round the World

by Jay Bowen

On Saturday, 22 July 2017 I was privileged to witness history in the making. Young Ms. Emily Stith was crowned The American Legion National Junior Shooting Champion in the Precision Shooting Division. Why is that significant? Did I mention she's from Colorado? Did I also mention she was sponsored by the Neal Thomas Jr. – Centennial Post 209? Another first for our Post, but that's enough about us.

It was amazing watching this young lady on the final day of the competition. She had survived the local Postal (yes, Postal) competition, and then the state-wide shoot-off. What started out to be 1,300 plus high school age boys and girls shooters from around the country competing at the local, and regional levels and culminating in the top 30 winners converging on Colorado Springs to compete in the Sporter and Precision Divisions.

With her Dad, Don, Mother, Jessica, and Sister, Chelsea sitting in the audience, Emily did what her Dad taught her to do over the past four years since she's been competing; win! The Thursday and Friday before the final Saturday Shoot-off resulted in the top 30 being reduced to the best 8 shooters in each Division. Emily, in lane 1 fired off 10 rounds at the small target 10 meters away. The electronic scorecard is capable of registering a maximum score per shot of 10.9. All of Emily's shots scored a minimum of 10.1, with one shot scoring a 10.8.



She was very methodical in her approach to firing, a procedure probably taught by her Dad who is a firing coach. Having 1 minute to fire each round, she would stand staring across the lanes, not necessarily watching her competitors but getting her mind focused on the job at hand. After about 20 seconds, she would slowly turn and sight in on the target. For all 10 shots, she was the last to fire. And her strong, disciplined procedure obviously made a difference. When the time came for her to fire the 10th shot, Emily's score was far enough ahead of her closest competitor that she didn't even have to shoot to win. But she did, and she scored a 10.3 in her final shot in her final round to compete at this level.



L/R: Americanism Chairman Richard Anderson, National Commander Charles Schmidt, Emily, Youth Activities Sub-Committee Chairman Charlie Tucker, Past National SAL Commander Neal Warnken.

So what's next for this champion? She reports to Ft. Jackson, SC as a new US Army recruit in August. After Basic Training and AIT, she will join the US Army marksmanship unit in Ft. Benning, GA. This has to sting a little for her US Navy career senior NCO Dad and member of The America Legion, but as you would expect, he along with Mom and sis are very proud of Emily and her decision to serve. And Don has a membership application already filled out for Emily to join Post 209 as soon as she becomes eligible.

Remember the name Emily Stith. I predict we'll see her again on a slightly different and much larger stage. She will be wearing another Gold Medal as she did the evening of the 22nd of July. But the next time, she'll be flanked on both sides by Silver and Bronze competitors and we'll be listening to The National Anthem playing while she stands in front of a backdrop of 5 interlocking rings.

You go Emily. We're watching and we're very proud!



From the Historian

Chris Earley

Our September look back at history starts out with a “Happy Birthday” to the United States Air Force, established on September 18th, 1947. Also in September, Germany invaded Poland on the 1st and thus WWII was started. On September 2nd, during the Civil War, Union forces captured Atlanta. The battle of Fort McHenry took place on the 13th, inspiring Francis Scott Key to write a poem based on the events of that evening. It would be later mated with the tune of an old drinking song and become our National Anthem. The first fatality involving powered flight occurred on September 17th as a biplane piloted by Orville Wright fell from a height of 75 feet, killing Lt. Thomas E. Selfridge, his 26-year-old passenger.

But a much bigger event in American History also took place on September 17th. Previously, on September 1st, Confederate General Robert E. Lee won the 2nd Battle of Bull Run but failed in his main objective of pushing Union troops back into Washington D.C. Instead he turned and marched his troops toward Maryland. On the 17th of September, 1862 he would clash with the north near Sharpsburg, Maryland in a battle forever known as the Battle of Antietam.

Under the command of Maj. Gen. George McClellan, the Army of the Potomac mounted a series of powerful assaults against rebel forces. The morning attacks by the Union 1st and 12th Corps on the Confederate left flank, and vicious Confederate counterattacks by Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson's brigades swept back and forth through Miller's Cornfield, across the Hagerstown Turnpike and into the West Woods. Union 2nd Corps assaults against the Sunken Road pierced the Confederate center but failed to capitalize on their breakthrough there. That afternoon, the third and final major assault by Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside's 9th Corps pushed over a bullet-strewn stone bridge at Antietam Creek that now bears his name. Just as Burnside's forces began to collapse the Confederate right, Gen. A.P. Hill's Division from Harpers Ferry arrived and helped to drive the Army of the Potomac back once more. The next day both sides remained in place, too bloodied to advance. Late that evening, Lee withdrew from the battlefield and slipped back across the Potomac into Virginia. For all the death and carnage the bloodiest day in American history ended in essentially a tie. The bloodiest single day in American military history ended in a draw. President Lincoln would claim the Confederate retreat as a victory, and emboldened by these events would issue the Emancipation Proclamation five days later.

The statistics from that one day are staggering! In all, the battle involved some 132,000 troops with Union forces outnumbering the Confederates 2 to 1. When the smoke had finally cleared there were 22,717 Americans dead, with losses fairly evenly distributed on both sides. In addition another 17, 292 were wounded.

And that is history.



From the Service Officer (re-printed from August)

Lyle Hagelberg

A few years ago Neal Thomas Jr. started an emergency Veteran's fund at Post 209. This was to be used by the Service Officer, or any other officer with the approval of the Commander, to aid and assist Veterans in need. This fund was targeted for those who didn't have time to complete paperwork to go to Denver or those who didn't qualify for Temporary Financial Assistance or the Children's Fund. We've helped Veterans with many things, such as: money for a tank of gas; gift card to shop for food; two or three nights' stay in a motel while waiting for a Disability or Social Security check; and storage rent before personal property was auctioned off. Neal was the first member to donate to that fund. Since then the Riders have made generous contributions as well as a few other Legionnaires. The fund is almost a one-way street with most of the money going out to help Veterans or their families. We are in need of a reinvigoration of that fund. The Post members have always risen to the occasion, whether to support the Josh pups, Thanksgiving boxes, and Veteran homes, etc. We'd like this fund to be a continuing legacy, so please feel free to drop your pocket change (or paper money) into one of the jars you see around the Post. There will be a Veteran out there somewhere thanking you.



Motorcycle Minute

Bob "Einstein" Caddell; President

Last month was VERY busy for the Riders. We held our Riders dinner and it was, if I say so myself delicious. Thanks to all that turned out for this important fund raiser. We stood guard on the Vietnam Memorial traveling wall. Again, thanks to those that helped. We had our Riders Poker Run raising more money to help where we can.

This month the Riders are making a fun run to Steamboat Springs on the 9th and will spend the night coming back on the 10th. Also, we will be hosting the annual Neil Thomas Jr. Memorial Ride to Bishops Castle. Please feel free to cage it if need be. We started this ride to honor our name sake. If you don't want to go on the ride and would like to make a donation, please see me and I'll gladly add it to our total. All money raised goes to the Veteran's Assistance Fund that Neal started.

We doing our annual food drive again this year. We are accepting all nonperishable food items to make up our food boxes, but NO TURKEYS until November please.

Some of us went to Post 2 in Pueblo to assist them with the Legacy Run that came through on its way to Reno NV. The Riders from all over the country raise funds to support the scholarships given to the children of fallen service members. We donated 2 times to this, once to the scholarship fund and to the Porta Potty fund for the stop in Grand Junction.

More than 432 participants have registered for this year's ride, which left Dodge City, Kan., on Aug. 12, traveled nearly 1,400 miles across Colorado and Utah before arriving at the 99th National Convention in Reno, Nev., on Aug. 17. Pre-Legacy Run events took place at the Kansas Soldiers' Home, which is about five miles east of Dodge City. The home hosted a hog roast for Riders on the evening of Aug. 11 and a morning breakfast to kick off the ride, which departed around 8 a.m. There were dinner stops at American Legion Post 2 in Pueblo, Colo., and American Legion Post 16 in Fallon, Nev., as well as multiple wreath-laying ceremonies along the way. There were also multiple Operation Comfort Warriors donation presentations.

Last year's Legacy Run helped raise more than \$1 million for the Legacy Scholarship Fund for the third straight year. In 11 years, the ride has helped raise more than \$7 million for college money for the children of U.S. military personnel killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as children of post-9/11 veterans with a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher.

Life is fleeting so take time to cherish everyone that affects you daily and always. The Legacy Riders lost a member last month. Legacy Run dedicated to longtime Chief Road Guard Verlin Abbott, who was killed in a motorcycle accident one week before the ride departed Dodge City. So please put the phone down and Watch out for motorcycles.



From the Junior Shooting Sports Chairman Ken Taylor

Every year in July, the Junior Shooting Sports National Championship is held at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. On July 18, 2017, Post 209 and the Young Guns hosted a welcome dinner for 30 junior shooters, their parents, coaches, and The American Legion Junior Shooting Committee who were participating in the American Legion National Championship. We heard nothing but rave reviews about our Post and the great food they had. Many thanks to Art and his staff for a great job. We heard they want to come back!

This year, Post 209 sponsored a shooting team from USA Shooting in the precision category of the Championship. One of those shooters, Emily Stith, went on to win it all! What a great performance by a great athlete. You made us proud!

Our Post 209 Young Guns, who shoot in the Sporter Category, will start a new class on Thursday, September 14 at 6:30 PM. There is just one opening left in our class of 12. Please contact the Junior Shooting Sports Chairman, Ken Taylor, if you want to be in the class. I can be reached at 719-761-4047 or by email at jssp209@gmail.com.



Auxiliary Fundraiser; Christmas Ornament Jackie Bowen, Past Unit President

The newly designed and “One-of-a-Kind” Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 Christmas Ornaments have arrived. As you can imagine, this will almost immediately be a collector’s item as it features our Post home and name. It makes for a beautiful gift for someone special or for yourself and a lasting memory of the best American Legion family Post in Colorado.



This lacquered brass ornament is approximately 2 1/4” high by 2 3/4” wide. We are selling the ornaments for only \$12.00 each.

They will look great on any Christmas Tree or displayed prominently on a shelf in your home. Please consider supporting our Auxiliary fundraiser with a purchase. All proceeds will go to help our local area Veterans and their family. Contact me with questions and to buy one of these great ornaments.

Thanks in advance and Merry Christmas (yes, I know we’re early, but this is a Christmas fundraiser)!



From the Sergeant-at-Arms Stan “Sgt. Ski” Krasinski

Good day my Post 209 Legion friends - family- teammates,

I would like to offer these thoughts to you on behalf of the concept of being an "Enlarger":

Team members always love and admire a player who is able to help them go to another level, someone who enlarges them and empowers them to be successful. Players who enlarge their teammates have several things in common:

1. Enlargers value their teammates: Your teammates can tell whether you believe in them. People’s performances usually reflect the expectations of those they respect.
2. Enlargers value what their teammates value: Players who enlarge others listen to discover what their teammates talk about and watch to see what they spend their money on. That kind of knowledge, along with a desire to relate to their fellow players, creates a strong connection.
3. Enlargers add value to their teammates: Adding value is really the essence of enlarging others. It’s finding ways to help others improve their abilities and attitudes. An enlarger looks for the gifts, talents, and uniqueness in other people, and then helps them to increase those abilities.
4. Enlargers make themselves more valuable: Enlargers work to make themselves better, not only because it benefits them personally, but also because it helps them to help others. If you want to increase the ability of a teammate, make yourself better.

How do your teammates see you? Are you an enlarger? Do you make them better than they are alone through your inspiration and contribution? Do you know what your teammates value? Do you capitalize on those things by adding value to them in those areas? Take some specific steps to enlarge your teammates today.

From The Maxwell Daily Reader; www.johnmaxwell.com

Your teammates at Legion Post 209 are asking for your help. Please come and volunteer in any way that you can. 'Whatever your pattern, those under you will tend to imitate what you do. Focus on how you act.'

Thank you all for all that you do to promote the values and efforts of our American Legion!

Bringing a Little South to the West

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

You would think living in a town like Memphis would have given me a “big city” attitude, but as many of you who read my articles know, I grew up in Memphis and in the farmlands of Arkansas. Having parents from the farms of Arkansas coupled with the many visits and summer vacations spent working my grandparents farms helped keep the country in me and the city slicker side at bay. So what does a country boy living in a big city do for fun growing up in the 60’s? Well, one of our favorite activities was to camp out.

We lived in suburbia Memphis. It was very typical of the movies that depicts small houses set in a community with small to medium sized yards. We lived on a corner lot so with the exception of the “Dew house,” which was built in the early 1900’s and sat on about an acre, our yard was larger than most in our immediate neighborhood. We never heard of a Homeowners Association. There was nothing consistent about the houses, fences, driveways, or anything else. Each house and lot pretty much reflected the personality of the people occupying the home. And because for much of my younger days we were in the county, our neighborhood didn’t have sidewalks and the street lights were sparse.

We had a fence around the backyard that was a wire square mesh type. The squares were large enough for a young boy to put his hand through, but it was fine to contain our Collie. From the time I was born right up to the passing of my parents (Dad in 2001 and Mom in 2008), they had Collies. And they alternated in calling them King and Prince. It was comical and a little confusing when Dad would reminisce about them because he would refer to them as “old white King,” or “the first Prince.” He once told me he named them in this way so he could pronounce them easily. He would occasionally get upset with my sister who named her dog Frodo, and at me for naming one of my Collie’s Galahad. He would ask us why we couldn’t name our dog something someone could pronounce. But I digress.

Our “camping out” meant we were going to spend the night in our backyard. Our parents knew we were safe because we had a Collie (one of the Kings or Princes) in the backyard for protection. The protection was assuming we stayed in the backyard all night, which we never did. It was just the place from which our night started. We always had 2 or 3 buddies from the neighborhood camping out with us and we always turned it into an adventure.

We ran the neighborhood. If we coordinated it right, there would be others “camping out” in their backyard and we’d meet up and roam the streets together. As I recall, we never did anything that would get us into trouble...well most of the time. But even then, we never really did anything illegal...well most of the time. And even then it wasn’t anything really bad...oh well, you get it.

The summer nights in Memphis presented a different world than in the daytime. There were lightning bugs and dogs barking, probably at us. We’d pick out houses of our friends who for one reason or another weren’t with us and we’d scratch on their window, then duck underneath. We figured if we weren’t going to get any sleep, why should they? Only occasionally did their father come outside to check on the noise and scratching. Our travels would take us 4 or 5 suburbia blocks from our house. Most of our activities is probably better left to your imagination. I don’t know what the statute of limitations is for some of the things we did.

Our night out would typically end with us finally laying down in our tent or on a pallet in the backyard at about 4:00am. Mom or Dad would come out and wake us up at about 7:00am. We’d clear up our camp site, grab some breakfast, then head out to explore our world in the daylight.

Kids today miss out on some exciting and fun times by sitting in front of a computer screen or electronic game station. They never get to experience the real world of their neighborhood. They’re too busy exploring the make believe world inside the game universe. That’s really too bad. The real world is much more interesting and fun than the one ran off double A batteries.

Albeit, “back in the day,” we didn’t have to worry about some pervert grabbing up kids and in the suburbs of Oakhaven in Memphis, Coyotes, Bears, and Mountain Lions were only found in football stadiums as mascots. Those certainly were “the good ole days.”



Post Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Mike Barger	719-290-3218
Sr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Jr. Vice Cdr	Jerry Lollar	719-641-2778
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Paul R. Darrow	719-237-4461
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasin-ski	719-556-8326
Historian	Chris Early	719-338-1398
Post Exec. Cmtee	Bill Burd	719-330-1279
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Marvin Weaver, Sr.	719-638-4763
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Bob Caddell	719-393-5180
Vice President	Steve Hayes	719-494-7166
Secretary	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Tim McDowell	719-510-9907
Road Captain	Grady Mitchell	719-201-3353



Auxiliary Officers 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Vice President	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073
Secretary	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Jackie Burd	719-590-6615
Sergeant-At-Arms	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Historian	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073



Sons of The American Legion 2017-2018

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047
Sr. Vice Com-mander	Marv Weaver Jr.	719-244-3535
Jr. Vice Com-mander	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-556-8326
Adjutant	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Steve P. Cox	970-580-8191
Assistant S-a-Arms	Stanten Krasinski	719-556-8326
Chaplain	Shelten Krasinski	719-556-8326
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm	2
3	4 Labor Day Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm	5	6	7 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	8 \$9.00 Meal AUX Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	9 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am
10	11 Patriot Day	12	13 Youna Guns 6:30pm	14 Youna Guns 6:30pm	15 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	16
17	18 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm	19	20 Youna Guns 6:30pm	21 Fundraising Committee Meeting 7:00pm Young Guns 6:30pm	22 Fall begins Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	23
24 Neal Thomas Jr Memorial Ride	25	26 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm	27 Youna Guns 6:30pm	28 Youna Guns 6:30pm	29	30

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com

October 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	3	4 Young Guns 6:30pm 	5 Young Guns 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	6 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	7
8	9 Columbus Day	10	11 Young Guns 6:30pm 	12 Young Guns 6:30pm 	13 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner RSVP Required! 6:00pm  	14 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
15	16 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  	17 Veterans' Stand-Down    	18 Young Guns 6:30pm 	19 Fundraising Committee Meeting 7:00pm Young Guns 6:30pm 	20 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	21
22	23	24 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	25 Young Guns 6:30pm 	26 Young Guns 6:30pm 	27 \$10.50 Meal Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	28 Halloween Party! 2:00pm - 4:00pm   TRICK OR TREAT
29	30	31 Halloween	Notes:			

November 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Young Guns 6:30pm 	2 Young Guns 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	3 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	4
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends	6 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	7 Election Day	8 Young Guns 6:30pm 	9 Young Guns 6:30pm 	10 \$9.00 Meal AUX Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	11 Veterans Day Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
12	13	14	15	16 Great American Smokeout Fundraising Committee Meeting 7:00pm   	17 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  	18
19	20 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25
26	27	28 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	29	30	Notes: Chef's Surprise is cancelled in November	