



The Centennial

Volume XIII Edition 9

September 2022

AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209



Photo credit: Jerry Hopper, Pony Express. Left to right: Bobby Senter & Rufus, Steve Hayes, Jonathon Shay (in wagon), Steve Butner, Cornell Penn (in orange), Lonnie Sedillo (in wagon), Marvin Weaver Jr., & Kourtney Kimbrell (in wagon).

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3613 Jeannine Dr. Colorado Springs, CO 80917
719.599.8624

www.legion209.org

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The American Legion Post 209 Officers 2022-2023

Commander:	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	(719) 244-3535
Adjutant:	Doug Millison	(719) 599-8624
Sr. Vice Commander:	Steve Hayes	(719) 494-7166
Jr. Vice Commander:	Jerry Hopper	(918) 953-9980
Honor Guard:	Joel Haas	(719) 482-4496
Finance Officer:	Sarah Tobin	(719) 439-7724
Service Officer:	Brian Murphy	(719) 930-4147
Judge Advocate:	Marvin Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Historian:	Kurt Skinner	(719) 963-3517
Exec. Cmte man/Club Mgr:	Art Kimbrel	(719) 339-4610
Chaplain:	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
Immediate Past CDR:	Lino Calica	(719) 963-0956
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers 2022-2023

President:	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
Vice President:	Cathy Barger	(719) 290-3163
Secretary:	Pat Weaver	(719) 638-4763
Treasurer:	Kellie Hayes	(719) 494-7167
Chaplain:	Mary Bramer	(719) 633-8612
Exec.-at-Large:	Jackie Bowen	(901) 481-0673
Historian:	Sarah Tobin	(719) 439-7724
Sgt-at-Arms:	Michelle Bresee	



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 2022-2023

Commander:	Rob Barry	(719) 930-5725
Adjutant & Finance Officer:	Ken Taylor	(719) 461-4047
Sr. Vice Commander:	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
Chaplain:	Brad Henderson	(830) 660-4072
Jr. Vice Commander:	Chris Hollingsworth	(910) 364-1677
Sgt-at-Arms:	Bob Ingram	(480) 353-8234



American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers 2022-2023

President:	Ed Santos	(719) 329-4357
Vice President:	Jerry "Rico" Shay	(719) 244-3901
Secretary:	Royce Hopper	(918) 953-9993
Treasurer:	Scott Laudan	(719) 238-2679
Sgt-at-Arms:	Bobby Senter	(719) 660-3775
Road Captain:	Sean Cope	(719) 246-4820
Historian:	Tina Cope	
Communications:	Gary Asp	(719) 822-3270



American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) Officers

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



From the desk and mind of the Commander

September is one of those months that brings back many memories. Some of them are good and some of them bad. Being the first Monday in September, Labor Day always brought fun times for me. It usually meant the last camping trip and the start of a new school year. I typically like two school days yearly (the first and last days). September always meant the beginning of the football season with high school football on Friday, watching college football all day Saturday, and NFL on Sunday.

The other thing that September brings a lot of people is the memory of September 11, 2001. Unless you have been living under a bridge, everyone knows what happened that day, and they can remember where they were and what they were doing when they heard about the morning events. The one other thing I always remember is the night before. It was Monday night football, and the Broncos were playing at home. I remember it because I was happy that the Broncos won, not because that is the game where Christian McCaffrey broke his leg and was out for the season after just one game. I got up the following day, found out what had happened, and realized that the night before did not matter as much as I thought.

The events of September 11th created a common theme within our country. It brought us together and created more patriotism than I had ever seen. As a whole, everyone had a newfound love for our country. These events also are why many of us joined the service branch we did or stayed in longer than we initially planned. While in the military, we developed a camaraderie that continues today for most of us.

This camaraderie is one of the things that brings us all together in The American Legion. We may not share the same stories or even the war era, but we can all relate. We are here to support each other and veterans who are still serving and will be serving in the future. The American Legion gives us all one voice and a strong voice when we go to Congress to lobby for the VA and other veteran benefits. This is just one of the reasons that a lot of us are members of The American Legion.

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

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





From the desk of the Sr. Vice Commander

The new membership year has started, and the Adjutant has the new membership cards in his possession. We have not received a quota yet from National for the 2023 year, but we anticipate it to be a little over 1100 members. As of the last update, we are at 50% of that goal. Please keep the renewals coming. Take a moment now and send in your dues for renewal. The cost is \$45, and we have several ways to accomplish this. To renew, you can:

- mail them to the Post (American Legion Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80917)
- go to our website using PayPal (https://www.legion209.org/officers/renew_legion.shtml);
- go to the National website (<https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew#legion-org>), or
- just come out for one of the dinners this month and give your renewal to our new Adjutant Doug Millison directly.

Steve Hayes

Senior Vice Commander



From the desk of the Jr. Vice Commander

I don't know if more folks are coming out of their safe havens or what, but the attendance at the August General Membership meeting was more like the numbers of a couple of years ago. I saw members there that I had not seen for a long time, which was great.

We also had military and veteran Liaisons for Congressman Lamborn's office there to let us know what they do for veterans. They are there to assist any veteran having difficulties with their VA claims. They are not who you reach out to file a claim. Congressman Lamborn's office is where we go if there are issues with a claim filed. For example, a rejected claim the veteran feels was not warranted. See page 11 for contact information. Our Post Service Officer, Brian Murphy should be your first call if you want to file a disability claim or have your claim reviewed and updated. Brian is also our first responder for veterans in need of help.

This month we will have guest speakers covering Winter Weather Safety. So come on over and enjoy a great breakfast and even better camaraderie. See ya there.

Jerry Hepper
Jr Vice Commander





From our Post Adjutant

Have you ever wondered why you still received a renewal notice after you renewed? Here's the rundown on how that system operates. The renewals are generated at the National level, not from the Post. The returns are directed to the Post because the Adjutant submits a report to National every year that lets them know where we would like the mailed renewals to be sent. The printing operation is an older system; no, I can't tell you how old. That requires a certain amount of time to upload data for almost 2 million members, and you cannot insert or delete a member's data at a certain point.

Every year a schedule is posted in the officer's guide that tells us when a renewal must be entered into the system so that members will not receive a renewal notice. These are listed as Cutoff and Renewal dates. This year's schedule is:

CUTOFF DATES

September 10, 2022

October 15, 2022

December 9, 2022

February 10, 2023

April 14, 2023

RENEWAL DATES

October 7, 2022

November 11, 2022

January 6, 2023

February 24, 2023

April 30, 2023

So, if you drop your renewal into the mail on 5 September, you'll be good and not receive a reminder mailed on 7 October, right? Not at all. It has to get to me here at the Post, and then I must process it along with many others. This is a manual process and takes time. Cards to mark, rosters to update, checks to process, and finally, entering your renewal into the system at MyLegion.org. Once it is entered online, it is supposed to be in the system, and everything will happen automatically, but things happen.

I know the cutoff dates and will work hard to ensure your renewal is out of this office on time if you give me enough time. The best bet is to return your renewal once you get that notice in the mail if you use checks. But there are better options, as mentioned before. You can create an account at <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Home> by clicking on the register button. Once registered, you can pay your renewal online with a credit card. Better yet, you can set up an automatic renewal using a credit card where every July, it runs your renewal, and you never receive a renewal notice at all. Another good thing about having an account is that you can change your contact information to ensure that you will get that magazine when you move, as well as our emails and, on the rare occasion, a phone call from me if we need to talk.

Bottom line? If you send in your renewal check about the time you get this newsletter, you might still get a renewal notice. If you get that notice and haven't received a 2023 membership card, call me at the Post, and we'll figure it out.

Doug Millisen
Adjutant





From our Post Historian

While 9/11 remembrances will predominate this month, September is filled with innumerable dates of significance for American veterans. First, the coordinated Islamic terrorist attacks on 11 Sep 2001 prompted the still unresolved Global War on Terrorism; President George W. Bush declared in September 2001, "Our war on terror...will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated."

Americanism abounds in September. Our nation's founding document, the US Constitution, in which every veteran has sworn to "support and defend" against all foreign and domestic enemies, was signed on 17 Sep 1787. Our National Anthem (officially adopted in 1931) was penned this month in 1814, as the American defense of Fort McHenry inspired Francis Scott Key under British bombardment. In its original form, the Pledge of Allegiance first appeared in print this month in 1892. And finally, Congress chartered The American Legion on 16 Sep 1919.



Some notable firsts in military technology include the first use of submarine warfare, when the American submersible, *Turtle*, attempted (unsuccessfully) to sink a British warship in the New York Harbor on 7 Sep 1776. The first nuclear submarine, *USS Nautilus*, was commissioned by the US Navy on 30 Sep 1954. 1LT Thomas Selfridge, USA, became the first active-duty member killed in an aircraft when his Wright Military Flyer (piloted by Orville Wright) crashed on a 17 Sep 1908 training mission. The B-29 Superfortress, the American strategic bomber used in the deadly bombing raids that broke the will of the Japanese empire during the Second World War, made its debut flight on 21 Sep 1942.

Several "turning point" battles occurred during September. On 11 Sep 1814, the American fleet defeated the British squadron at the Battle of Plattsburg on Lake Champlain, forcing the British to retreat to Canada and the negotiated conclusion of the War of 1812. In 1847, General Winfield Scott won the last major battle of the Mexican-American War, as the Marines stormed Chapultepec Castle (near Mexico City), raising the Stars and Stripes over "The Halls of Montezuma." American victory led to the formal US possessing California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and portions of New Mexico and Arizona. 17 Sep 1862 marks the deadliest one-day battle in American history, with over 23,000 casualties. The costly Union victory at the Battle of Antietam allowed President Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. Finally, the Saint-Mihiel offensive was initiated on 12 Sep 1918, the first major operation during the First World War by an independent American Army led by General John Pershing. Saint-Mihiel also marked the largest Allied air operation of the war, led by Army BG Billy Mitchell, regarded as the "father of the US Air Force."

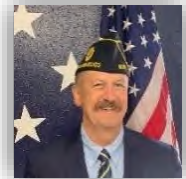
Two major American wars ended in September. On 3 Sep 1783, Britain formally recognized the independence of the United States of America, as the Treaty of Paris ended the American Revolutionary War. Second World War hostilities were concluded with the formal surrender of Japan aboard the *USS Missouri* on 2 Sep 1945.

The 15-month Berlin Airlift, which demonstrated America's resolve to support Western Europe in the face of Soviet aggression, concluded on 30 Sep 1949, marking an early "victory" in the Cold War. The third Friday in September (16 Sep 2022) is POW/MIA Recognition Day.

September "birthdays":

- 1 Sep (1982) – Air Force Space Command activated at Peterson AFB (Colorado Springs)
- 12 Sep (1957) – NORAD was established at Ent AFB (Colorado Springs)
- 18 Sep (1947) –US Air Force established - The National Security Act also created the position of Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council, and the Central Intelligence Agency

Kurt Skinner
Historian



From our Honor Guard Captain

The Honor Guard continues to stay active with requests for Final Honors and Presentation of Colors. Training also continues to hone our skills, sharpen our movements, and improve the team's timing of movements. We continue to be recognized by families and Our Community for our effort to support our veterans. The Honor Guard has the honor of Presenting the Colors at a WWII veteran's 100th birthday party on September 3, 2022. We are also awaiting confirmation for Presenting the Colors at the Pikes Peaks Air Show on September 24, 2022.

Soon everyone should start seeing Honor Guard team members wearing hats and t-shirts designed by the team. As part of the incentive for members participating in Final Honors events, Honor Guard apparel will be handed out to those members who have supported the number of events identified for hats and t-shirts. The team is excited to become more visible as Honor Guard team members when out of uniform.

The effort to put together the Competition Color Guard continues. Anyone interested is encouraged to reach out to set up a time to try out. The current team members will begin with planning the routines, develop ideas for specific Color Guard uniforms, and plan how to move forward in our preparation for competing. Fundraisers will offset expenses for competing at the National Convention (either 2023 or 2024, to be determined).

Even though the Honor Guard has continued to gain new members, there is no such thing as having too many members. Participate in a night or two for training meetings to participate in the Honor Guard events (a meeting is scheduled every week, check the newsletter calendar). Members of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary are all eligible members. If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please reach out to me at (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org.

Joel W. Haas
Honor Guard Captain





From the Chaplain: Why me, God?

It is the unexpected in life that keeps us on our toes. Sometimes, it may be very good; other times, it may be awful. For example, there is the story of a fellow named Job. Job was a believer, a man with a strong faith in his God. He was one of those who "have it all"; wealth, friends, family – everything. Then Job lost his wealth. He lost his friends. He lost his family. Finally, Job lost the one remaining thing he had – his health. The man who had everything lost everything.

Some of us aren't as strong in our conviction as Job; some have no religious persuasion. When trials and times of suffering happen to us or someone close to us, we are often overwhelmed. We may be okay on the outside, but on the inside, we feel lost, confused, scared, and unsure of what we're supposed to think and feel. *Why me, God? Why him? Why my family?* It is healthy to ask hard questions and be angry and upset. We wonder whether God would even listen to us if we said a prayer. Even Job asked questions.

These times are what I call "faith tests." Tough times require tough decisions. Whether strong in their relationship with the Good Lord or not, the most challenging decision for all believers is to keep the faith and hold on to hope when it seems there is no hope. Lean into your faith and beliefs, especially in a crisis. There is a source of hope, strength, and peace. If you don't have that assurance, now is a great time to open a relationship with God. And why not? Successive empires rise and fall, but God remains. *"...His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed."* (Daniel 7:14)

That fundamental truth lends perspective to the events of our lives. Believers know God is in control even when we least understand what is happening. Samantha Bentley, caregiver whose father has cancer and author of "Why Me, God?" writes, "I know the valleys and the seasons are tough and even unbearable at times. It's easy to get tunnel vision and only focus on the distress of the season, instead of looking beyond and realizing that light, hope, and blessing could be just ahead." My faith tells me that whether you or someone you care for is in a room with no one else around, the God I believe in is always present. That realization gives the believer courage, direction, and motivation. *"Fear not, for I am with you. Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you. Yes, I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* (Isaiah 41:10)

None of those statements change our lives' small and great events, nor do they protect us from challenges. Life is life, and life happens to all of us. The best we can hope for is to thank the Good Lord for our many blessings, to ask for wisdom, guidance, strength, and solutions, and to trust Him regardless of the outcome - on the inside and outside. *"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."* (Isaiah 40:31)

The good news? Prayer is simply a quiet conversation with God. Talk to Him. Ask for His strength today and every day.

Brad Henderson
Chaplain
Serving God and Country





From the desk of the Unit President

As we move into September, we have several volunteer opportunities for our membership. If there is something you feel you would like to volunteer to help with, please reach out to me & we can get you involved! Our unit is very busy throughout the year, but we tend to take on a bit extra through the Holiday season just around the corner.

As a reminder, our Craft Fair will be on October 15th. We are still taking registrations for booth space from vendors. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Kellie Hayes or Royce for assistance. We are happy to email all of the information out to anyone interested. We are advertising on local news, the gazette, social media & other sites.

Happy birthday to our members who were born in September! Cleo Allgood, Barbara Fisher, Zoe Hutcherson, Vanessa Leiker, AlDonna Marshall, Amy Mitchell, Stacey Ousley, Summer Palaroan, Susan Parsons, Joyce Taylor, Addy Smith

Royce Hopper
Unit President



From our SAL Commander

This month's focus is back to school. As summer is winding down, school is about to pick back up. This is a great time to assist the youth and become involved in school activities. This school year might be the first normal year these kids have seen in quite a while. Also, with changes in how schools operate, they could use our help. We need to consider volunteering in the schools and make ourselves visible. COVID has slowed the recovery over the past few years, so this is the year to make a difference.

It seems like some sporting events have not come back after the pandemic. However, children need after-school activities, and a great opportunity they have available is scouting and Jr shooting. This is an excellent way for kids to have fun and de-stress after a hard day. We are gearing up for shooting classes at The Legion that will run every Wednesday and Thursday. You can find all information on the Post 209 website. I urge you to look at the opportunities and more the Post offers.

The SAL ran the lunch for the ALR Pony Express, where we made \$420.00. After expenses, we can use our profits of \$288 and add them to the CWF fund. Our goal annually is \$1500, and I would like to see a record year. The SAL also donated \$250 to the ALR for their Legacy Scholarship fundraiser, which was a huge success. Crew 762 had a fundraiser during lunch and brought in almost 100 bucks! It was a great day for everyone involved.

Your SAL is taking advantage of the world's return to "normal." We will get back to the basics – visiting our veterans and children. We have a few opportunities coming up in the next month

and would love to see maximum participation. Keep an eye on the website, and also, please reach out to leadership for more information.

FEED THE PIGS!! If you don't know what this means, come to one of our Friday dinners, and see what it is all about. If you don't see the pigs out, just ask any SAL member, and we will find a starving pig for you to feed. Nobody likes a skinny pig.

Have a great end of summer, and I hope to see you around The Legion.

Rob Barry

Commander SAL 209



From The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC)

One of the more thrilling aspects of Ham Radio is "competition" - Competing for AWARDS and Certificates resulting from the on-air activity.

Awards

- Worked All States
- Worked All Continents
- Worked 100 Countries

Certificates

- One of the newer certificate programs - Parks on the Air (POTA), also Summits on the Air
- Ham operators will set up a station at a National or State Park, and the rest of the community will try to contact (AKA WORK) as many POTA stations as they can, earning their way to a new cert.

TALARC is planning to activate a POTA station at Cheyenne Mountain State Park in the Fall. In addition, we are doing a pre-op activation later this month, using emergency power, and giving Hams around the country a shot at another park.

If you are interested in learning about this intriguing hobby or participating in Legion 209 radio club events -- call, email, or text me.

FOR ALL YOU EXISTING HAMS OUT THERE ----- Is there something that the CLUB can do to spark your interest? Some sort of event? Something, anything?



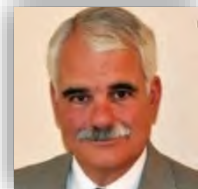
Harvey LeCato

TALARC Secretary

719-331-1212

mbca@comcast.net

W I J U



VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA) NEWS



Meet your Veterans Service Officer

Hello all from your Legion Veterans Service Officer! If you need any assistance with VA claims, disability info, housing, medical access to care, etc., feel free to call or email me. I'm here to help you!

Brian J Murphy, LCSW, MSW

VA/DoD Liaison Program

Office: 719-526-9675 Cell: 719-930-4147

Brian.Murphy3@va.gov or Brian.J.Murphy44.civ@mail.mil



Military and veteran liaisons for Congressman Lamborn: Doug Fitzgerald or Gabriel Ballejas at 719-520-0055. They are there to assist you if you need Congressional help for any matter that Brian cannot resolve."

Jerry Hopper
Jr Vice Commander



2022 Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act. The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of veterans — and their survivors — with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve. The PACT Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefits expansion in VA history. The law's full name is The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics PACT Act. The PACT Act:

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for veterans with toxic exposures and veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras.
- It adds more than 20 new presumptive conditions for burn pits and other toxic exposures and adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation,
- requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every veteran enrolled in VA health care, and
- helps improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

If you're a veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits. See more on the benefits and how to proceed with claims and VA healthcare enrollment at: <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>

Steve Hayes
Senior Vice Commander



UPCOMING EVENTS

The American Legion 100 Miles for Hope

Come join us for a Group Walk!

Members of the American Legion Family are invited to join us for the last walk of the season, which will be on September 11th. And because it happens to fall on 9/11, we will be doing something different and special to honor all of those involved in what happened and what followed.

We will meet at the veteran's memorial in Memorial Park downtown (off of S. Union Blvd) and walk to the fallen firefighter memorial, around the lake to the peace officer's memorial and return to the GWOT memorial on top of the hill. The trail is only 2.75 miles long, paved, and relatively flat. We will be walking along the sidewalks by a couple of busy roads, so I plan on carrying American and Legion flags to help remind people what day it is and possibly strike up some conversations. If you have a flag at your house, bring it along, I will also bring what I have from the house. And you know, it would look much more impressive with more than two people.

Everyone is welcome to join us, whether you are participating in the 100 Miles for Hope Challenge or not. Bring the spouse, kids, grandkids, and dogs. It's time spent outdoors together. We start at 0900-ish.

Our last walk will be:

- **September 11th**
- **We start from the Post and depart promptly-ish at 0900 hrs.**
- **We hope to see you there!**



Celebrate

At
American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

Host your next event with us! With over 2,500 SQFT of venue space this is the perfect location for your next social event!



Rental Features:

- 6 Hour Rental
- In House Catering Available*
- Fully Stocked Bar*
- Muti-Room Sound System
- Dance Floor with Lighting

If you and your family are looking for an affordable option for a wedding, corporate event, retirement party, or any other event, we here at The American Legion Post 209 are ready to assist you in all your event planning needs.

Starting at

\$350!



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

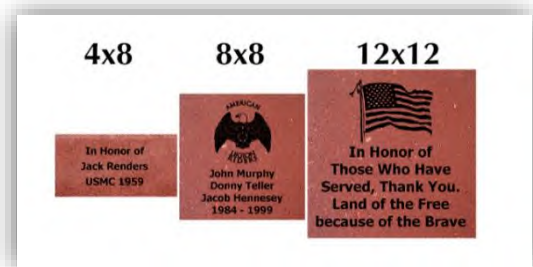
*Additional cost may apply

FUNDRAISER INFORMATION

Walk of Honor



- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style and lettering desired but typically range from \$90 to \$200 depending on size.
- **What are the costs for the corporate/veteran supporter bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$250 to \$500.
- **What is the difference between individual and corporate bricks?** Individual bricks are for veterans and family members of veterans wishing to purchase a brick to honor their veterans. The corporate bricks are for our veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who want to show their continued support for our nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the brick purchase restricted to members of the Post 209 families?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves for their veteran loved ones or to show their support for our veterans.
- **Where do I go to buy a brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit legion209.org and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. In addition, you will be able to see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How do I pay for the brick?** We have the site set up to accept payment via PayPal or check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick, and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where will the brick be shipped?** All bricks will be sent to the Post. We will notify you when it arrives, and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- **What will become of my brick?** It will be placed near the flagpole at the Post. If you are a landscaper or know a good one (preferably a veteran), have them contact our Adjutant.
- **How long will this fundraiser effort last?** We plan only to sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project.
- **Will I have an opportunity to buy a brick later?** Quite possibly, depending on what is decided/approved for the next phase of our project.



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



**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209
Holiday Craft Fair**

October 15th from 9am to 4pm
3613 Jeannine Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO

Jewelry, Holiday Gifts, Wood Crafts, Quilts,
Gift Wrapping, & More

We will be collecting Canned Goods
donations for Care & Share!

For more information,
Contact Kellie Hayes at
Hayeskelliej@yahoo.com

GUEST COMMENTARY



A Note from the Editor

This month we have several new submissions. I've added a VA News page to consolidate all related VA news in one place. We have a couple of new pieces from Marvin Jr, "Salty Dog" Jay Bowen "What is your MOS?" We also have the second article by Matthew Brockie for his Cyber 101 series focusing on password security. Thank you for the contributions; the variety makes the newsletter more interesting. If you have pictures from various events, please send them to me to be used in the newsletter.

After reading through the articles this month, one particular statement stood out to me. Marvin Jr talked about the gravity of Sept 11, 2001, and said, "Unless you have been living under a bridge, everyone knows what happened that day." This is very true and hard to reconcile with the fact that I now have a son serving as an Infantryman in the US Army who was not even born then.



I lived in the DC area, supporting the DoD during the attack. I saw the damage to the Pentagon and remember how surreal the following days, weeks, and months were. My son has, of course, heard of 9/11, but he didn't experience it and can't know what it was like for the country. So thank you, Jr, for including your memories of the day to help the new generation of warfighters better understand why the defense of our nation is so important.

Georgianna Shea
Editor
letters@legion209.org



Salty Dog

I'm going to revive a little article that used to be in the newsletter, but I have renamed the segment. This article is used to bring some **Salt** to the Post. I'll start by explaining a few commonly used terms we use in the Navy and are also used by those who served in other branches of service but attempt to use Navy terms in daily conversation.

<u>Civilian Term</u>	<u>Proper Navy Term</u>
Floor	Deck
Ceiling	Overhead
Wall	Bulkhead
Stairs	Ladder
Water Fountain	Scuttlebutt

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Commander





What is your MOS?

No, I don't mean Military Occupational Specialty. Every one of us has memories of our time serving our great nation. Some are memories we never want to share, but there are many humorous and interesting memories. So, we invite you to share your Memory of Service or MOS. Just send us your article no later than the 15th of every month to letters@legion209.org and copy me to your submission. Publication decisions reside with the Commander. We ask that you keep the articles to one-page length. Also, the publication will be based on the number of articles we receive. So, yours may have to be pushed to the next month if we get too many to publish. With that said, I'll get the ball rolling and share a MOS.

I volunteered to serve in the US Army while still a high-school senior. I would love to tell you I did it for the love of country, but the real driving force was I knew I would get drafted. I was in my third year of JROTC. My military advisor, an old, crusty retired Army First Sergeant, said we had a better chance of getting into a job we wanted if we enlisted than if we got drafted.

I started my illustrious Army career on 1 July 1971 when I reported for basic training at Ft. Campbell, KY, home to the 101st Airborne Division. Basic training was not fun. I don't know which was worse, the heat and humidity or the drill sergeants fresh from a deployment to Vietnam. While they were tough, I quickly learned their goal was to transform us from a civilian into some of the best fighting men in the Army. Their goal was to teach us to stay alive and depend on our battle buddies for survival.

I'll just share one story for this offering. We were into about week 6 or 7, and the company commander called about six other guys and me into his office. He told us we had scored high enough on our GT tests to qualify for Officer Candidate School. He told us a little about serving as a commissioned officer but, for some reason, left out the urban legend that the life expectancy of a 2nd Lieutenant was about six months in 'Nam. We all stood at our "At Ease" position. When he finished giving us his sales pitch, I raised my hand for a question. I asked if he could tell us a little about OCS. He said it was very similar to basic training but 16 weeks long. Hearing that and counting the hours for my basic training experience to finally end, I shuttered at the thought of doing this again for 16 weeks. I then asked my follow-on question. When do we have to decide on whether to apply? The company commander asked how long my enlistment was. I told him three years. He said, "you have three years to decide." I replied, "thank you, sir. I respectfully decline the offer."

I have no regrets about turning down the opportunity. I wound up serving 20 years, 9 of which enlisted, and after achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6), I applied and got accepted to attend Warrant Officer training in the HAWK Missile field. I retired as a CW-3 and did not regret the decision I made. Oh, when my lottery number was drawn for the draft, it was 12. I definitely would have gotten drafted.

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



Cyber 101 – Passwords

Nearly everything has moved online in the past decade, whether banking, paying taxes, emails, or simply utilizing social media. With that comes the hundreds of passwords you're forced to remember. With so many, it can be very tempting to use the same password continually or use simple ones like "Password" or "123456". Other common ones include walking keyboard patterns like "qwerty123" or "qazXSW." Unfortunately, simple passwords like these, while easy to remember, can be broken extremely easily and can leave you vulnerable to hackers who want your information. However, a few simple measures can be taken to counteract this threat and give yourself the best possible defense against an attacker.

Use Strong Unique Passwords. You should never reuse a password no matter how strong it may be, as once an attacker gets access to one account with that password, any other account with the same one can be compromised. Ideally, passwords should range anywhere from 10-16 characters with entirely random numbers, capital letters, and symbols.

Password Bank. A password bank will hold all of your passwords behind a secure two-factor authentication wall. This can be great if you have a lot of long and confusing passwords to remember. All the user must remember is the password for the bank to have access. Of course, this does run a risk, as well as if an attacker gets access to your password bank. Now all of those accounts are compromised as well. So, before utilizing a password bank, be sure your one password is as strong and unique as possible.

Do NOT Share Passwords. This step can be challenging as family members may need access to different accounts or Wi-Fi passwords. You may not think twice about texting or emailing them passwords, but this could be where you are the most vulnerable.

1. Never email or text passwords to anyone
2. Don't use post-it notes around your computer to store passwords
3. Stay away from spreadsheets or documents

Use Two-Factor Authentication. Two-Factor is a great extra layer of defense that goes beyond just the initial entering of a username and password. To gain access to the account, you link another account with a separate password allowing for two security walls.

Matthew Brockie

Cybersecurity student, CSU

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/matthew-brockie/>
matt.brockie5@gmail.com

Looking for an internship summer of 2023





Bringing A Little South to the West

Chores. A very common term heard and referenced by every kid I knew growing up in the 50s and 60s. I wonder if kids today have even heard the term. Kids in the Bowen household were required to do chores daily. This included cleaning our bedrooms, making our beds, washing and drying dishes (we were the dishwasher), cleaning and vacuuming our small 3-bedroom, one-bath home, doing the laundry, ironing clothes, and mowing the lawn. And anything special that needed doing, such as painting, would be added to our list of chores. All Mom or Dad had to classify the job as a chore, and we did it.

We took turns doing the dishes and laundry. Normally, it was two at a time doing these heavy-duty chores. The laundry wasn't too bad. We had to take the clothes out of the washing machine and hang them on the clothesline pole in the backyard. That consisted of two t-shaped welded pipes set about 15 yards apart, with four rolls of thin ropes stretched across the poles. At one point, Mom bought some pant stretchers. These were thin flat metal frames that shaped the pant legs by tightly fitting inside the pant leg. They were a little bit of a pain to get set up but doing this to standard meant we didn't have to iron the jeans after they dried. So, it was worth the little extra work.

Doing the dishes was different and one of my most hated jobs. The pots and pans could be challenging. This was especially true when Mom fixed stew or liver and onions. I hated both and didn't want to touch the appliances that made those into meals. Oh, how I dreaded my turn at either washing or drying the dishes. We couldn't just leave them in the drainer to drip dry. No, we had to use a hand towel to dry them and put them back in the cupboard where they belonged. I finally got some relief when Jackie and I started dating. I invited her to dinner on the nights when it was my turn, and she always volunteered to do my part. Man, I LOVE that woman!

We lived on a corner lot with a large yard. Dad bought a used riding lawn mower that wasn't in running condition. But he was a mechanical genius and could fix just about anything with a motor. He fancied himself as a "shade-tree mechanic." Anyway, Dad bought the riding mower and fixed the engine, which made our job mowing the lawn fun. Bubba and I would sometimes argue and even wrestle to see who would cut the grass. Our only challenge while mowing was when we were doing the backyard. Then we had to contend with our collie dog, King. He didn't like the riding mower and occasionally ran up to us, barking alongside the mower.

Dad gave all of us kids \$0.50 a week to spend any way we wanted. Today that would be about \$5.00. For a kid of 7 years old, that was pretty good money. Even when I turned 16, \$0.50 could get me more than two gallons of gas. Nowadays, the only chores Jackie has me do is carry out the trash on Mondays and help with the yard work on Thursdays. I just wish I could get her to pay me an allowance.

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Young Guns



NRA-Accredited members of the Sons of The American Legion are sponsors and instructors for the Young Guns program. This basic rifle safety and marksmanship course are offered to boys and girls ages 10-18. Shooting is indoors, using air rifles.

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

Scouting Programs

The Post 209 family is the charter partner for six Boy Scouts of America (BSA) units:



- Cub Scout Pack 24 (Boys and Girls): p24@legion209.org
- Cub Scout Pack 386 (Boys and Girls): p386@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 77 (Girls): t77@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 79 (Boys): t79@legion209.org
- Scouts BSA Troop 187 (Boys): t187@legion209.org
- Venture Crew 762 (Young men and women ages 14-20): c762@legion209.org

Boys and Girls State



Boys State and Girls State is for high school juniors going into their senior year with at least one semester left.

- BOYS STATE www.colegionboysstate.org/.
- GIRLS STATE <http://alacolorado.com/girls-state.html>

Oratorical Contest



This Nationwide contest is designed to develop a more profound knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students.

www.colegionoratorical.org

Eagle Scout of the Year






















The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year nomination window is from **1 November to 1 March**. Nomination packets must be received by each applicant's respective American Legion department (state) headquarters no later than 1 March.

<https://legion209.org/Scouting/>

SEPTEMBER

For the most current version see:
https://www.legion209.org/coming_up/

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm	4	5 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	6 Exec. Cmte 6:00pm  Young Guns 6:30pm Venture Crew 7:00pm	7	8 \$8 normal/\$9 omelet Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
9	10 Columbus Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	11 Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm	12 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	13 Young Guns 6:30pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	14 Price TBD ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	15 Auxiliary Craft Fair! 9:00am - 2:00pm 
16	17 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	18 ALR Exec. Mtng  ALR 6:30pm.	19 Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm	20 Young Guns 6:30pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	21 See below Early Bird Dinner! 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	22 Healing Warriors! 9:00am - 1:00pm
23	24 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	25 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:30pm  	26 Marksmanship 4:00pm 	27 Post Honor Gd.  Training 6:00pm  TALARC EC Meeting 5:00pm Venture Crew 7:00pm	28 Price TBD Chef's Choice Dinner 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	29
30	31 Halloween Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	Notes: Hamdogger is cancelled this month. There is no Steak Night in October. We will have our Early Bird Dinner 21 Oct. Free for members who join or renew before 18 Oct. \$14 for guests. Young Guns will also be meeting on 27 October at 6:30pm				