



Centennial Post 209

P. O. Box 15461
Colorado Springs, CO 80935

OCTOBER 1986

COMMANDER'S CORNER:

The National Convention in Cincinnati was a huge success. I attended the National Defense Committee session which had as its keynote speaker Major General Duane H. Cassidy, Headquarters, Space Command, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Following this momentous occasion I attended the VA & R and the Legislative Committee meetings. All proved to be very interesting and many of the resolutions submitted by the Department of Colorado were favorably received.

On Sunday we really had a ball at the National American Legion Parade. June and I led the parade carrying the Colorado Banner and had a real field day. The Colorado Delegation was really sharp in this parade. If you ever have the opportunity to attend a National Convention please plan to attend and participate in the parade.

I was very pleasantly surprised to see 15 members at our last regularly scheduled post meeting. It was indeed inspiring to see post members display genuine interest in post matters. This is what its all about. If you weren't there you missed a real treat. We discussed many things that were of prime interest to the members present including Membership, the upcoming Mid-Winter Conference Oct 31 - 2 Nov 86, Possible post home future acquisitions and the progress of the suit filed against the post. Why not come out and share in the decisions that affect the future of the post. As stated in the previous newsletter, all matters pertaining to the suit in progress will be discussed in regularly scheduled meetings only-unless some matter of prime importance require the calling of a special meeting.

We had reports from several standing committees including Bingo, Boys State, Oratorical and Membership. If you are not serving on a committee why not align with one of your choice. We are in dire need of someone to serve as chairman of the Oratorical Committee I am sure that someone in this post is capable of chairing this committee. We could also use someone to serve as a focal point for community involvement. We are limited only by our own ability to become involved in community activities. C'mon guys let's get involved.

We will have a formal initiation at our next meeting in October. If you have never been involved in a formal initiation please contact Adjutant George Wood at 574-0339 and let him know that you will be present. It's a beautiful ceremony and you will learn a lot of interesting facts about the American Legion.

We can still use some help at our Tuesday night Bingo. So if you can spare a few hours come out and help us. Together we can do so many things successfully. See you at the meeting.

The Little Post, Going Places - Doing Big Things.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

NEAL L. THOMAS, JR.,
Commander

VITAL RECORDS

If you need help obtaining certified copies of Birth, Death, Marriage or Divorce records, it is available in the guide "Where to Write for Vital Records" prepared by the National Center for Health Statistics. It lists application offices, fees, and other information to help find records including how to obtain birth records for persons born in foreign countries who are U.S. citizens at birth and for alien children adopted by U.S. citizens. There is also guidance on how to get certificates of citizenship, death records of Americans who died abroad and records kept by foreign countries.

To get a copy, send a check or money order for \$1.25 to the Supt of Documents, Washington D.C. 20402, and include the Government Printing office stock number 017-022-00847-5. Orders may also be charged to VISA or MasterCard. For faster service, charge orders may be placed by calling (202)783-3238.

GRANTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY:

Generally a Power of Attorney is a document through which one person authorizes another to transact business for him to the extent set forth in the Power of Attorney. But while powers of attorney are sometimes useful, they can't accomplish many of the things most people think they can for a number of reasons. First nobody is compelled to accept the power of attorney, even though it is legally acceptable. Many will refuse to accept a power of attorney simply because they are uncertain of the validity of the document. Also, many businesses or institutions will accept a power of attorney only if it is in a format prepared by them. Second, powers of attorney are revoked by the death of the grantor.

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The special power of attorney authorizes the named person to act for the grantor in a single transaction.

Some states have power of attorney stipulations: for example, under Texas law the buying and selling of real property (land, houses, buildings) requires a special power of attorney which contains the legal description of the property.

C & Y PROGRAM LEADERS SET AREAS OF CONCERN FOR 86-87:

Participation with the communities in American Legion projects for the benefit of local children and youth continues to be a source of great satisfaction for Legionnaires and members of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Many important services are provided through such annual programs as April is Children & Youth Month, Special Post Activity Awards (STAR), Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA), Family Week, Special Olympics, The Halloween Safety Program, and many other outstanding activities.

After weighing the many important issues facing our youth today, the National Commission on Children & Youth determined that there were no problems more pressing than the three major areas of concern which the Legion has been emphasizing.

Because of its continuation in these areas, the Commission has established for the American Legion a high level of credibility with other national organizations specializing in these areas. The Legion is now a part of many important national networks that recognize our contributions in these areas as highly significant.

The major areas of concern for the 86-87 program year will continue to be as follows:

TEENAGE SUICIDE PREVENTION: Today the American Legion is recognized as a leader in this area of concern. Many community officials have requested materials prepared by the Legion for their educational programs. Many posts have taken this program into the schools and drawn greater public awareness to the problem with the cooperation of local news media.

Every request for material received at National Headquarters is not only filled with some excellent program material but also is accompanied by a media kit. This kit contains slides (for T.V. use) news releases, proclamations, and other media material to help the volunteers in the development of a local program for the

prevention of teenage suicide.

As long as some teenagers continue to look for a permanent solution to a temporary problem through suicide, the American Legion must take a leading role in raising the banner of hope through effective prevention programs.

MISSING CHILDREN: Major emphasis in this area of concern is prevention through education. The American Legion provides two brochures that are in great demand concerning this problem. The newest of these is the first of its kind for the commission. In the past, our material had been aimed at an adult audience. The new brochure - Children Beware - is designed for children. The brochure is targeted at elementary age students. National distribution is scheduled to begin this fall.

DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION: The only solution to reducing illegal drug traffic is to dry up the demand. Through effective educational programs, we can help our youth make responsible decisions about their use of drugs.

This is not a problem that is destined to disappear on its own. The use and abuse of illegal drugs continues to plague our society as it swallows the future of many young people.

Through the use of our educational material addressing the issues of drug abuse prevention, alcohol, and marijuana, your American Legion Post can have a positive impact on your community. Just by showing that you care may keep one life from traveling the dead-end street of drug abuse.

If anyone would like one of the kits described above, please contact me at 574-0339.

LABOR DEPARTMENT PROPOSALS THREATEN VETERAN ASSISTANCE:

Washington (ALNS) - Potential changes in the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment Service could mean the loss of an important protection the nation's veterans have received since 1933, warns the American Legion. In a letter to Secretary of Labor William Brock, National Commander Dale L. Renaud has requested the department to delay any change in the Employment Service until veterans organizations are consulted.

The passage of the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933 provided for veterans preference as millions of Americans looked to their state employment service for assistance in obtaining jobs. The concept of veterans preference was reconfirmed and reemphasized with the passage of the Veterans Readjustment Act of 1944 (The GI Bill of Rights) and by subsequent legislation over the years.

As it now exists, the Employment Service receives funds from the federal government, along with guidelines about how the funds are to be used. Being considered is the "New Federalism" approach of sending funds to the states as a type of block grant, with few restrictions on its use. States would then be free to run their programs as they saw fit, and not be required to give veterans the preference they now enjoy.

"States tend to view veterans as a federal problem," said the Legion's Economic Director, Dennis K. Rhoades. "Most believe, mistakenly, that the Veterans Administration provides employment and training assistance for veterans. It's just not so; it's the labor departments job."

Rhoades emphasized that the Labor Departments plans will leave the Department and Veterans it is supposed to serve with no delivery system for job placement and training services.

In his letter to Secretary Brock, Commander Renaud ask him to agree to meet with American Legion representative to ensure that this critical program for veterans is not diminished.

VA INSURANCE HOAX CONTINUES TO HAUNT VETS:

Washington D.C. (ALNS) - It is a hoax that will not die. Yearly now, more and more veterans are receiving notices that an insurance refund to veterans of World War II is available. There is no truth to the information contained in the notice.

There are no insurance refunds like this, said Philip R. Wilkerson, Assistant Director for claims of the American Legion. "It's not exactly a case of fraud or a scam, because nobody makes money. But the administrative costs to the Veterans Administration are enormous."

Wilkerson pointed out that the VA has to assign staff to answer the thousands of requests which follow the circulation of such notices. "The VA's already strapped enough, without having something like this to worry about," he said.

The mininformation surfaces in different parts of the country on a regular basis, and has plagued the VA since the 1950's. "This is one of those instances which sounds to good to be true and it is," Wilkerson said.

PLUS TO BATTLE ADULT ILLITERACY:

The American Legion from the early days of its founding in 1919, has been - and will continue to be - concerned about the problem of illiteracy. This is a problem which not only presents a staggering cost to the nation in terms of dollars and cents, but also poses a threat to the nation's strength.

For the millions of Americans who cannot read a street sign, a warning label, or a job application, illiteracy is a personal tragedy. For the nation, the cost of illiteracy runs into billions of dollars.

Federal studies estimate that at least 23 million adult Americans are functionally illiterate - with basic skills at 4th grade level or below. Another 35 million are semi-illiterate with skills below the 8th grade level. And those numbers are growing.

Let's take a look at what your post can do in your community to help eradicate illiteracy.

The main purpose of a sponsor, such as your post, is to provide reasonable support of a literacy program which will help ensure its stability and continuity. The degree of involvement with the day-to-day operation of the program will vary greatly, but sponsors should provide some of the following kinds of assistance:

- *Publicity to raise community awareness of the problem (this is one of the purposes of PLUS) and the program (purpose of PLUS task force).

- *Assist in the recruitment of leaders, tutors, and students (check your membership rolls; you may have members who fit all of these categories).

- *In-kind services such as clerical help, office space and/or equipment, duplicating services. (Does your post have unused or older equipment which can be refurbished and donated to the program? Is there room in the post building for classes?)

- *Expertise in a specialized area, such as public relations or planning financial management.

- *A representative to participate in the program's governing body (someone to see that the post's resources are utilized correctly and to maintain awareness of the continuing needs of the program).

There is also a national source for help. If you have questions about what may already exist in the way of a PLUS program locally or in your general area, call the Literacy Hotline using the following too-free number: 1-800-228-8813. This number also can be used by adults wishing to be referred to a program in their respective area.

Additional information and assistance may be obtained by writing to Laubach Literacy International, P.O. Box 131, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210; or Literacy Volunteers of American Inc., 404 Oak St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13203.

BITS AND PIECES

The October regular meeting will be 16 October 1986, Rustic Hills Mall, across from True Value Hardware, inside the Mall at the Community Room at 7:P.M.

Don't forget the October meeting will be initiations. Please

call 574-0339 and get your name on the list.

Anyone wishing to order a post cap or other items out of the 1986 American Legion catalog, Please call George Wood, 574-0339 no later than 10 October 1986.

If you have some items that you want to get rid of, Don't forget to get them to Connie Wood for the yard sale. Response has been very slow and the girls want to have the yard sale before the snow flies. So call Connie 574-0339, or drop your items off at 6490 Palmer Park Blvd.

AUXILIARY CORNER

Ladies:

It was indeed a pleasure to attend the National American Legion Convention which was held in Cincinnati, Ohio as an alternate delegate both for the Department of Colorado Auxiliary and for District 7 American Legion. I attended the Membership Committee and Past Department President, now NEC Nellie McNeal. Among the awards given out Alaska received the majority of them. Auxiliary member Oliver from Alaska won an expense paid trip to the National Convention.

There were two resolutions approved that I feel would be of interest to you. One was to accept "grandmothers" into the Auxilieary and the second was to accept "great granddaughters" into the Auxiliary as Junior members to strengthen the Auxiliary body. This resolution will be presented to the American Legion body next year for their approval. It was exciting to see parlimentary procedures in action. We have some wonderful leaders to be proud of. Evelyn Starr from Minnesota is our new National president. Her pin is a star and her theme is "And justice for All,"

As you are probably aware of, Thelma Gardner is the Department president for the State of Colorado. Her pin is an eagle and her theme is "Keepthe Eagle Flying." Her first Vice President is Joan Martin. Department NEC is Nellie McNeal and Virginia Gorsuch, from Longmont, is still NEG for the N.W. Division. Let's "step up" with President Thelma and bring some members in. It is not a personal thing, it is for the betterment of those less fortunate than us.

The Department Chaplain is requesting all prayers to be turned in. I am requesting you send prayers to our Unit Chaplain, Flossie Reese at 4820 Bluestem Dr. Colorado Springs, Co 80917. Another reminder that we are still collecting anything you'd like to get rid of for our garage sale. Please contact Connie Wood at 574-0339 or Flossie Reese at 591-8960. We are still having our raffles on the first Tuesday of each month, all donations are appreciated.

NEC Virginia Gorsuch is requesting as many gifts to be donated for sale at Mid-Winter Conference this year as possible. She said fudge, doilies, cookies in a box, crafts, etc to be sold will be appreciated. The income from this sale will be used for a copier that is needed for the Secretary of the Department Auxiliary.

Unit 209 is having a "Get-Acquainted Tea" on October 19, 1986, Sunday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at 2574 Prescott Circle West. Hope to see you there.

Regularly scheduled meeting is still the 3rd Thursday, Seven O'Clock p.m., at Rustic Hills Mall. Bring your Spouse with you, we need your support!

A UNIT, UNDER GOD, FULFILLING A COMMITMENT

JUNE THOMAS
President

Oct 26

post. As Stated in the previous Newsletter, All matters pertaining to the suit in progress will be discussed in regularly scheduled meetings only. Unless some matter of prime importance require the calling of a special meeting,

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The Little Post, Doing Places - Doing Big Things

For God & Country
Neal L. Thomas, Sr
Commander

Commander's Cover:

M/G

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ON SUNDAY WE REALLY HAD A BALL AT THE NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION PARADE. JUNE AND I LED THE PARADE CARRYING THE COLORADO BANNER AND HAD A REAL FIELD DAY. THE COLORADO DELEGATION WAS REALLY SHARP IN THIS PARADE. IF YOU EVER HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND A NATIONAL CONVENTION PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE.

I WAS VERY PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO SEE 15 MEMBERS AT OUR LAST REGULARLY SCHEDULED PAST MEETING. IT WAS INDEED INSPIRING TO SEE PAST MEMBERS DISPLAY GENUINE INTEREST IN PAST MATTERS. THIS IS WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. IF YOU WEREN'T THERE YOU MISSED A REAL TREAT. WE DISCUSSED MANY THINGS THAT WERE OF PRIME INTEREST TO THE MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP, THE UPCOMING MID-WINTER CONFERENCE OCT 31 - 2 NOV 86, POSSIBLE PAST HOME FUTURE ACQUISITIONS AND THE PROGRESS OF THE SUIT FILED AGAINST THE PAST. WHY NOT COME OUT AND SHARE IN THE DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THE FUTURE OF THE

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✓ Words of Freedom: In face of the myriad challenges posed by an increasingly complex world, we tend to lose sight of the freedoms and privileges with which we, as Americans, are blessed. It must be our continuing duty to strive for the preservation of the political and economic system which guarantees those rights and which is recognized worldwide as an extraordinary achievement in the progress of mankind.

Dr. Richard L. Leshere

President

Chamber of Commerce of the U.S.

C & Y Program Leaders set Areas of Concern for 86-87.

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Labor Department proposals threaten Veteran Assistance

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provides employment and training assistance for veterans. It's just not so; it's the Labor Department's job."

Rhodes emphasized that the Labor Department's plans will leave the Department and veterans it is supposed to serve with no delivery system for job placement and training services.

In his letter to Secretary Brock, Commander Remond asks him to agree to meet with American Legion representatives to ensure that this critical program for veterans is not diminished.

✓ Unemployment rate stays higher for vets who served in S.E. Asia.

Washington (APUS) Vietnam War veterans who served in Southeast Asia have a significantly higher unemployment rate than veterans of the same period of hostilities who served elsewhere.

According to figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 6.7 percent of those veterans who served in the theatre are unemployed, compared to 5.4 percent of the Vietnam-era veterans.

More striking is the fact that service-connected

Disabled Vietnam War veterans have a 9.2 percent unemployment rate, with the rate for veterans who are not disabled standing at just 6 percent overall. Slightly more than half of all veterans with service connected disabilities were in the labor force, compared with more than 77 percent among those without disabilities.

Black veterans have the highest rate of unemployment 13.9 percent for all veterans, and 14.1 percent among Black Vietnam theater veterans.

"It's clear that even with the economy recovering from the dark days of just a few years ago, many veterans of the Vietnam War are experiencing persistent problems in finding career-oriented jobs," said Bruce Thiesen, Chairman of the American Legion's National Economics Commission.

VA Insurance Hoax continues to haunt VETS.

Washington D.C. (ALNS) - IT IS A HOAX THAT WILL NOT die. Yearly now, MORE AND MORE veterans are receiving notices that an insurance refund to veterans of World War II is available. There is NO TRUTH to the information contained in the notice.

"There are no insurance refunds like this," said Philip

R. Wilkerson, Assistant Director for claims of The American Legion. "IT'S NOT EXACTLY A CASE OF FRAUD OR A SCAM, BECAUSE NOBODY MAKES MONEY, BUT THE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS TO THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION ARE ENORMOUS."

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Don't forget to drop you items off to
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If anyone has black and white pictures
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Park Blvd, Colo Springs Co 80915. Pictures
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and Denver Post for publication. Get
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June Thomas
President

A Unit, Under God, Fulfilling A Commitment!