

CENTENNIAL POST 209

THE AMERICAN LEGION

OCTOBER 2000



LEGION
NEWS
FRANCIS REDINGTON
COMMANDER

ELECTION 2000 is just around the corner and to protect OUR benefits in the future, WE must get out and VOTE! There are many tax items on our local/state ballot needing everyone's close investigation. PLEASE GET OUT THE VOTE!!!. If anyone needs transportation, call 471-3925 for assistance.

We now have a trailer WE to use in parades, hauling gun show display and other projects. It came in handy Saturday when a small group showed up for our property cleanup. To mention a few, Larry Johnson, Charles Zeitvogel, Greg, Pat and Warren Andries, Robert Rydell, Norman Moyer, Al Cyriaque, your Commander and three of OUR neighbors. OUR intention is to have the property planted to rye grass making it easier to maintain. Warren Andries ran the front loader, cleaning and shaping the property. Thanks to his expertise, it helped US maximize OUR efforts.

We are looking at other methods of fundraising as we are in an ongoing status with OUR Bingo situation. WE are looking at an outside source to audit bingo paperwork and from there to schedule Bingo Orientation classes by the Secretary of State office. Once scheduled, WE must have as many bingo workers as possible attend them. If you have computer skills to help US, it would be a step in the right direction. WE are looking for a person to design and maintain a web page to lead US into 2001 and beyond. Most of OUR bingo operation involved a lot of mathematical errors, such as not noting leftover pull tabs on the LE-33 forms. Clearing those errors, WE will be able to realize a healthy bingo operation, funds to operate the Post and save toward building the Post Home WE all want. It will allow US to run the Americanism programs, such as Boys State, Oratorical, Junior Shooting Sports, Cub Scouts and many projects that WE are involved with in the Community.

THANKS TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HELPED OUT SATURDAY. Without your help, WE could not have done such a good job. If you didn't see your name in print and YOU were there, please let me know.

OFFICERS

COMMANDER	FRANCIS REDINGTON
SR VICE COMMANDE	CHUCK ZEITVOGEL
JR VICE COMMANDER	NORM MOYER
ADJUTANT	ANN FOSTER
FINANCE OFFICER	AL CYRIAQUE
HISTORIAN	GREG ANDRIES
SGT-AT-ARMS	ROBERT RYDELL
CHAPLAIN	HOWARD HORNIK
JUDGE ADVOCATE	LARRY JOHNSON
SERVICE OFFICER	TOM MORANT

DUES \$25.00

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	DOROTHY DASSERO
SECRETARY	PAT ANDRIES
TREASURER	BARBARA JOHNSON
CHAPLAIN	MARCIA SHELLHAMMER
SGT-AT-ARMS	RUTH HORNIK

DUES \$15.00

**AUXILIARY MEETING THE THIRD THURSDAY EACH MONTH
AT THE POST'S OFFICE ON AUSTIN BLUFFS PKWY
1:30 P.M.**

**MEETINGS
3RD THURSDAY - 7:00 P.M.
VFW PST #4051, 430 E PIKES PEAK AVE
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO**

**EDITOR
DOROTHY DASSERO, NALPA**

**OFFICE
4291 AUSTIN BLUFFS PKWY STE 104
COLORADO SPGS CO 80918-2944
719-599-8624**

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY

**WORLD WAR I
APR 6, 1917 - NOV 11, 1918
WORLD WAR II
DEC 7, 1941 - DEC 31, 1946
KOREAN WAR
JUNE 25, 1950 - JAN 31, 1956
VIETNAM WAR
DEC 22, 1961 - MAY 7, 1975
GRENADA & LEBANON
AUG 24 1982 - JUL 31, 1990
PERSIAN GULF
AUG 2, 1990 - UNTIL THE
END OF HOSTILITIES**

**ADJUTANT ANNOTATIONS
ANN FOSTER**

We are now one over 65% of our goal of 270 for the membership year of 2001. I'm sad to report we have not received your renewals at the rate needed to make our goal. We need 93 more. I feel sure we can do this with your help. Pay your dues now so we may reach 100% by the end of the membership drive, 31 December. Your help is greatly appreciated.

On 9 September, Morm Moyer, Harry McFadden, Howard and Ruth Hornik, and I attended the VA Medical Center at Fort Lyon for the last All-Patient Activity Day festivities. VA has announced the purchase by the Colorado Department of Corrections to house prisoners in need of long term nursing and/or psychiatric care. The patients really enjoyed the afternoon. We were glad to help them have a fun day. It will be

sometime next year before the transition actually takes place. The patients will be moved to other facilities. A forty-bed nursing home is planned for Pueblo, which will be the central office area for the Southern Colorado Healthcare System.

Commander Redington and I attended a Forgotten Heroes medal presentation and the Department Headquarters building dedication on 16 September. The medal presentation by the American Legion Department of Colorado was at the Wings over the Rockies museum just around the corner from Department Headquarters. There were thirteen recipients or family members to receive medals. Their periods of service ranged from WWI through Korea. This was a moving ceremony and the recipients were grateful to be remembered for their service. Past National Commander Jake Comer was the keynote speaker at the dedication of our new Department Headquarters. He had much praise for our move to this new building which is better equipped and better located to serve the needs of Department. He mentioned the hard work being done by our members to further our goal of veterans helping veterans and reminded us of the need to continue our fight for the Flag Amendment. It was an honor to attend these events. If you have not had the chance to visit the Wings over the Rockies Museum, we would encourage you to fit that into your schedule sometime in the near future. The displays of aircraft, uniforms, and memorabilia are very much worth seeing.

On Saturday, 11 November, there will be a parade downtown at 9:00

a.m. and that evening, the Post 209 Early Bird dinner will be held at Post 5, starting at 6:00 p.m.

SR VICE COMMANDER
CHUCK ZEITVOGEL

Post 209's membership drive continues. The goal to have 270 members by December 31st continues. Progress is being made and congratulations are offered to new members and to those who are helping in this recruiting effort. Now each member is encouraged to invite some eligible person to join our Post before the end of this year.

The American Legion offers many benefits. For example, consider the insurance benefits offered. Featured plans include the Medicare Supplement, Long Term Care, Hospital Indemnity, Cancer Care, Accident Protection, Travel Accident, Excess Major Medical, Disability Income, Dental Help, Auto and Homeowners. For over 30 years, the Legionnaire Insurance Trust program has used combined Legionnaire buying power to negotiate the best rates and coverage from leading insurance companies. Insurance is just one of the many benefits of joining. Check them out and share this information with those you know.

VOTE - VOTE!! November 7th is the date for the general elections. We need all our Legionnaires to vote on this day. We need to vote for whoever we believe will provide the best leadership for nation, state and local community. Many issues are decided by just a few votes one way or the other. We must exercise our right and responsibility to vote. Rights

and responsibilities not exercised are subject to being lost. If you need assistance getting to your voting place, contact our office (599-8624) with your name, address and phone number prior to Nov 7th so that we might coordinate a ride for you. VOTE! VOTE!! VOTE!!

DARE TO BE CONTROVERSIAL - The Flag Protection Amendment - Our United States flag is a mighty symbol for the ideals our nation stands for and for what so many citizens from the Revolutionary War to the present have fought and died for. No question about that. In recent years our United States flag has been desecrated by individuals and groups protesting government policies, in the name of art, and sometimes in desperation for attention. As a result of these acts, many people and organizations feel that a Flag Protection Amendment to the US Constitution is appropriate and would somehow protect our Flag. Do you feel that way?

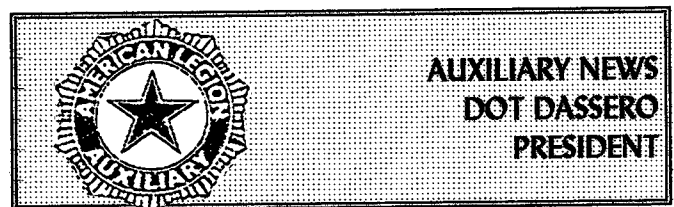
My initial reaction would be to support such an amendment. However, upon reflection, I question the wisdom. What do you say? How can I go against my organization that supports an amendment? I have questions about definitions and enforcement. Who sets the definitions for desecration or disrespect? Would it be something subject to political whim? What about the advertisements and marketing now using the flag for commercial purposes? Who would police that? Even now there are questions about infringement on First Amendment rights.

Consider the punishment for transgressions. What would be

appropriate? Would they be fines? What would be the minimum or the maximum? Would there be jail or terms imposed? What would they be? Who would determine this? Are not our jails and prisons overflowing enough already?

What is the solution for protecting our national flag? I propose one. There may be others. Rather than a Flag Protection Amendment, consider that we fund and support an education program within elementary and high schools, as well as in colleges and universities. Teach civics programs, history, how our government works, as well as the importance of individual responsibility all must take to preserve our nation and this unique experiment in freedom, democracy and republic. Our system of government is an example to the rest of the world, and our citizens should honor and protect our flag, not out of fear of punishment, but out of respect learned through education.

What do you think? Share your thoughts. We would be more than happy to publish them in this newsletter.



Pay your dues, ladies, so that you can attend the Early Bird Dinner which is now in planning stages.

And try to make our afternoon meetings. They were changed to benefit those of you who do not drive at night. Now y'all come!

Notice to Appear in Your Next Newsletter

We have been asked by the organizers of the Veterans Day Parade to help honor veterans by supporting the Parade.

Organizers are asking for help signing up veterans to appear in the Parade. Veterans will ride (not walk) with others who served. World War Two veterans appear with others who served in a region or battle with them. This is a special sight to see and we hope all will bring their families downtown to see these veterans of historic events.

Organizers want as many Korean War veterans in the Parade as possible. This is the fiftieth anniversary of the Korean War. Many of these veterans have never been acknowledged in their own communities as they should have been. If you are a Korean War veteran, please sign up. Please encourage your friends who are veterans, but may not be members of a veterans organization, to participate. This will be a day to remember for your entire family.

All veterans are welcome. With the help of our organization the veterans will be honored as they should be.

CLIP and Mail:

Name of Veteran _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Where He Served (dates and place of service)
(If veteran participated in any historic event, please indicate.) _____

Does he need a ride to the parade? Yes No

Mail this to: Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade, Inc.
431 North Cascade Avenue, Suite 1
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903
