

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Mike Barger

Well, another month has passed and things are still going crazy for us all. Just when you think you can take a break and catch your breath, we get called into action again. I'd like to thank those that stepped up to help at the Post the last couple of months while some of us were out of town representing Post 209 in Reno, NV in August, and some much-needed time away from here on vacation in September. Your efforts go above and beyond.

The last couple of months, I've been updating you about a Post member, Randolph Edwards, that I've been trying to assist getting a stair lift installed at his house. I informed you last month that he had taken a turn for the worse. I was notified while I was in Reno, NV at the National Convention, that he passed away on August 22nd. I'd like to take this time to wish Shirley his wife and the rest of his family condolences from the Post, and let her know if there's anything we can do for her, to let us know. He was interned at Fort Logan, and I was honored to represent the Post at his memorial service on September 2nd.

I'd also like to pass on my condolences along with the Post's, to our Department and District Chaplain, Stan Hamamoto. Stan's wife Shirley passed away on August 29th. Please keep Stan and all his family in your thoughts and prayers. This Post lost a very dear lady in Shirley, and she will be dearly missed.

I know that the National Convention was in August, but I tell you what. If you've never been to one, you need to try and get yourself to next year's convention. It will be held in Minneapolis, MN, and it will be the 100th National Convention. It was an honor to go to this year's, for it was a very historic event. For the very first time ever, the President of the United States signed a bill on a Veteran Service Organization's stage in front of all those that attended. The bill was the "Veterans' Appeal Improvement and Modernization Act". This bill will streamline the process of Veterans appealing claims over disability benefits. Appeals have been known to take up to 6 years. Also, we witnessed the first ever female to lead our organization, Denise Rohan, from Wisconsin. I tried to document the convention in pictures, so if you haven't seen the photos, get on Facebook and search for American Legion Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 page, and you can view them there.

I learned a lot on how the Legion is run, and met lots of wonderful people. The highlight of the convention for me was to shake the hand of a real American hero, Donald Ballard. Mr. Ballard was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism in Vietnam in 1968. It's not every day you get to meet and talk to one of the greatest Americans to walk the face of the earth. I look forward to next year's convention.

Folks, we need to keep working membership. We're doing a good job, but we can always do better. Remember, if you bring our Post a new member, I will buy you a dinner. I believe we can reach and surpass our goal. On November 3rd, 4th and 5th, District 7 will be doing a DMS event at both Post 209 and Post 38. For those that don't know what DMS is, DMS stands for "Direct Mail Solicitation". It's our way of connecting with folks that are already Legion members, but are affiliated with Post 211 (which is a holding Post), and get their permission to transfer them to a local Post. That way, when they go to renew, their money will stay local, and help these Posts when it comes to assisting our local Veterans. Post 209 will be the host Post on November 3rd and November 5th from noon to 5 pm. Post 38 will be the host Post on November 4th, from 10 am to 5 pm. I know November 4th is the Veteran's Day parade, but after the parade, head down to Post 38 and assist even if it's only an hour. All you need is a phone, charger and the ability to get these Veterans assigned to one of our Posts.



From the Unit 209 President
Cathy Barger

Wow, I can't believe that it's October already. It seems like this year is flying by. With the cool mornings, the leaves changing colors and pretty soon the snow will be here.

Our monthly membership meeting is on October 14th, so come down and join us for breakfast at 9:00 am, and our meeting at 10:00 am.

The Legion Family Cookbook is available. You can purchase them for \$15.00.

The one of kind Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 Christmas Ornaments are still available. These make a great gift. You can purchase one for \$15.00.

The Auxiliary will start taking orders for the Rada Cutlery, just in time for the holidays. These make great gifts for those that could use some good knives.

FREE. Did I read the word FREE? Everyone likes free. The Post will be offering the Early Bird dinner for all Legion family members that renew their membership by October 15th. New members that sign up by then will also get a free dinner. The dinner will be offered on October 27th at 6:00 p.m. Every member is important and we need your participation in our many worthwhile programs. The 2018 membership cards are here so be an "Early Bird" and renew now for the upcoming year. Dues are \$30 for Senior members and \$8 for Juniors.

It's hard to believe that it's almost time for Halloween. On Saturday October 28th, we'll be having our annual Halloween party. The fun will begin at 3:00 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. We'll have games and/or movies for the younger ones, even the adults can join in the fun. Can't wait to see everyone's costumes.

Happy Birthday to Pamela Barger, Shavon Barringer, Karen Beard, Jackie Burd, Susan Calica, Kaitlyn Cancellieri, Jean Chladek, Joan Ciani, Elinor Eastman, Anessa Espinola, Mary Grier, Margaret Harris, Joyce Horne, Kourtney Kimbrel, Patty Lollar, Sandra Luhnnow, Jennifer Manriquez, Annie Peterson, Esther Redington, Margie Roth, Kari Ann Smith, Mavis Spath, Susan Thompson, Beatrice Trujillo, Theresa Wiederspahn, Lelia Vasquez. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

ALR will be conducting the October dinner, which will be celebrating Oktoberfest. Dinner will be Hungarian Goulash. Please come down and support the riders, and make sure to RSVP.



From the Adjutant
Marvin Weaver, Jr.

We have a busy next couple months here at the Post. The Homeless Veterans Stand Down will be on October 17th at the city auditorium downtown. The Veterans Day parade will be on November 4th along with Saluting America events the following week with School District 11.

Membership renewals have been coming in and we are at 55% of our membership goal. We will be 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 on October 27th from the Post. All you have to do to be eligible for this dinner is to pay your 2018 dues by the 15th and to make an RSVP for the dinner.

Department is running a contest to help in recruiting new members. 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 more new members you recruit the more chances you have to win.

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. There will be an Oktoberfest theme to the Conference. Wear your Lederhosen!



From the Junior Vice Commander

Jerry Lollar

From Post Membership Training Guide, at https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/postmembership_sec1.pdf

I am afraid the word motivation means many different things to many different people. So let's begin with the New Webster's Dictionary definition of Motivate (Motivation) – to furnish with a motive; to impel; to induce. Some people say motivation is knowing where you want to go (your goals and objectives) and how you're going to get there (your plan).

The word motivation is derived from the combination of the words: motivate and action (toward your goals). Motivation is not a big rally, although a rally can sometimes be used to stimulate motivation.

Motivation, simply stated, is to set your goals and establish and work the plan that will enable you to accomplish those goals. Perhaps the late Will Rogers summed it up best when he said; "Ladies and Gentlemen, in order to be successful in selling or any other activity, you need to know what you're doing, love what you're doing and believe in what you're doing."

We know our National Membership Goals for this year and we know the goals of our Departments, Districts/Counties and Posts. In order to continue the progress and inroads The American Legion has made in programs for Veterans, widows, children, orphans and the many programs for our community, state and nation, our membership must continue to grow.

Membership is the life-blood of The American Legion. Perhaps that last sentence is motivation enough for us to attain our goals. As we discussed in our membership workshops throughout the various regions of The American Legion, we must have PRIDE and COMMITMENT toward attaining our mission. We at National Headquarters are committed to support and assist each Department, District/County and Post in meeting their part of the membership challenge. We are all PROUD Legionnaires and will be even PROUDER of The American Legion and our own membership when we exceed our target for this membership year.



Early Bird Dinner!



Are you an Early Bird? Why is that important? Every year, we like to say thanks to all Legion family members (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders) who join or renew early. We do this by buying your dinner on 27 October. To qualify for the free meal, you must have joined or renewed between 1 July and 15 October and RSVP no later than 25 October. That's all there is to it. The dinner is free for the Early Bird only. Guests, kids over 12, etc. will have to pay for their meal at \$10.50 per person. Here's an idea. Sign up your guest(s) and kids as a member of the Legion family before 15 October and they too will get a free meal! If you're not already an Early Bird, let's "git 'er done!" Renew or sign up before the deadline!

Healthcare and Post Finances

by Legionnaire and Post Member Bernard Harris

Fellow Veterans and military family members, good day! At our August general membership meeting, the Commander mentioned that if we, the membership, don't develop a venture that generates more funding, the Executive Board will have to continue reaching into a contingency fund to support basic Post operating initiatives. The answer is already immediately available for the largest Post in the state to remain solvent! Use your PPSG/AmeriPlan website!

As I mentioned in my last article, "charity begins at home"! Please review the link on the bottom right of the Post website, AmeriPlan, and help the Post and help yourself and household members with discounted healthcare benefits and services. Simply stated, if you have Tricare/Delta dental or traditional dental insurance you're paying way too much to get way too little! The Deluxe-Plus plan gets your household members access to a licensed physician 24-hours a day without leaving your home for \$39.95. The Post will receive \$15.95 each month for your membership. Every service offered is available via the Deluxe-Plus Plan.

The PPSG would also like to approach other Posts throughout the state and the national headquarters too. They would operate as separate entities, but they would be sponsored by American Legion Post 209. This program benefits everyone, your household gets a myriad of benefits and services, and the Post receives residual income on a monthly basis for providing a need versus a want!

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



It's A Halloween Party!



Where? Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

When? Saturday, 28 October from 3:00pm to 5:00pm

Why? Because it's Halloween, duh!

Details: This is **NOT** a potluck affair. There will not be a meal served, however we will have treats for the kids. We need your RSVP to Jackie Bowen no later than 25 October. When you do, let her know how many kids you are bringing, male/female, and their age. If you don't RSVP by the deadline, you risk your child not receiving a bag of "goodies!"

Prizes? Of course! We will award prizes for the best costume in 4 categories:

- Male and Female 1-6 year old
- Male and Female 7-12 year old
- Male and Female Over 12
- Couples

Costumes are not required, but encouraged. That's part of the fun.

Come on out. We will have a ghoulishly good time! And don't forget the garlic to ward off the evil spirits.





From the Sr. Vice Commander

Eric Testorff

In a few days, it will be September 11th, but by the time this article goes to press, 9/11 remembrance ceremonies will have come and gone. The Honor Guard of Post 209 will have presented the Colors and rendered the playing of Taps at a ceremony downtown. I hope you will have been part of an observance, or at the very least, took a little time out of your day to stop and remember the many Americans hurt or killed on that day - and remember their loved ones and families.

As military Veterans, we understand and are familiar with the losses and sacrifices that too many families, friends and loved ones have had to bear. September 11th, 2001 was not technically a military engagement, yet, in a way, it was. It was an attack on our country by a hostile, outside force. Americans died. Families, and indeed a country, felt enormous loss. We witnessed numerous acts of bravery and sacrifice made by fellow citizens in an effort to save the lives of others.

Military Veterans almost certainly played a major part in these efforts. On a plane such as Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania, odds were that maybe a small number of the passengers—maybe even some who stormed the cockpit—had military experience. Certainly many active military were involved at the Pentagon, to include those who died, and those who helped others to safety. And of course, at the World Trade Center, where over 400 firefighters and police made the ultimate sacrifice, a significant percentage would be military Veterans. These people ran towards the source of trouble even as everyone else was running away.

On September 11th, we honor Fire, Police and military Veterans along with the many average American citizens who died on that day in 2001. Let not their sacrifice be forgotten. We in America honor our heroes, no matter how they fell. It is our obligation to remember them to our younger generations. We can do no less.



Something New! We Want To Hear From You!

We are introducing a new feature to *The Centennial* newsletter. We plan to create a “Letters To The Editor” section, and we want you to help.

Do you have a recommendation on how to make things better, more fun, or just to vent? Send us your thoughts and ideas. Here are the ground rules:

- Send it via email to letters@legion209.org, or;
- Send it via “snail mail to: Letters to the Editor, C/O American Legion Post 209 at our P.O. Box address
- It must have your name. No letters will be published without that information
- It cannot be about a political party or candidate (this is an American Legion publication)
- If the letter exceeds 250 words, we may condense or not publish the letter
- The Editor (Commander) and Publisher (Jay Bowen) reserves the right to edit and/or not publish the letter



Yum, Yum, Eat'em up!!

Butter Braid Sale

Starting October 6, 2017 we will be doing another Butter Braids sale. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than October 18, 2017. Delivery date is October 24, 2017 at 12:00pm. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$13.00 per braid except for the new flavor 4 Cheese & Herb and that one is \$14. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen, (719) 574-1223 or email jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com, with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

FLAVORS:

Caramel Rolls (9 rolls)

Apple

Blueberry & Cream Cheese

Cinnamon

Strawberry & Cream Cheese

4 Cheese & Herb (This is new and sells for \$14)

A Tuskegee Airman Flew Home by Mike Barger

Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 recently lost another hero. Legionnaire and previous Tuskegee Airman Randolph Edwards went to Post Everlasting on 22 August. Randy was a Paid Up For Life member of our Post along with being a member of the Tuskegee Airmen of Colorado Hubert L. "Hooks" Jones Chapter out of Denver. The below was extracted from the brochure provided at his Memorial Service.

Randolph Edwards was born on May 19th, 1927 in New York City. He was the only child of doting mother Daphne and Emmanuel Edwards. He attended New York City public and parochial schools. Randy graduated at the age of 17 from Rhodes Preparatory School in 1945.

He dreamed of becoming a military pilot and, as a teenager his whole motivation in life was to join the United States Air Force, become a pilot and defend this country. As soon as Randy became 18, he enlisted, in fact he did not even wait to go to his graduation ceremony before signing up. He entered the Army Air Corps to begin pilot training as an Army Aviation Cadet at Keesler Field, Biloxi, Mississippi, then joined class 46D of the Tuskegee Airmen and became one of the original members of the highly-decorated unit. World War II ended before he could complete his training and Randy was then assigned to the United States Air Force Reserves.



Randy is Bottom right hand Corner



Randy is Top row 3rd from left

In 1946, Randy left New York for Los Angeles and attended the University of Southern California, and, also became an actor in the road company of the Broadway play, "Anna Lucasta". He toured the west coast of the United States. Randy returned to New York in 1947, where he attended Sampson College and Columbia University before being recalled to active duty on two occasions, serving 18 months during the Korean conflict. He served with the USAF and was assigned to the Air Police Squadron, Mitchell Field, NY, then to the Langley AFB, Virginia-Honor Guard.

Randy returned home in 1953 when he met Shirley, the love of his life. He and Shirley married the following year.

His work in law enforcement, began in 1954 with the New York State Police Highway Patrol for one year, followed by a commendable 27-year career with the New York City Police Department. This included assignments in the Communications Bureau, the Detective Division-Criminal Identification Unit, and Narcotics and Special Investigation Units. Upon his retirement in 1980, Randy did contract work for a German travel magazine, taking photographs throughout the U.S. and Europe. He and Shirley lived in Copenhagen for 2 years and then in Germany for 8 years before retiring in Colorado Springs in 1996.



From the Historian Chris Earley

You may recall in my July article I discussed the peculiarity that we celebrated Independence Day on July 4th (the day the declaration was read before congress) and not July 2nd, the day Congress actually voted for independence and the day John Adams firmly held as our day of Independence. Well today I would like to make the argument that both days are wrong and in fact our Independence Day should be celebrated in October!

You see, it is one thing to simply declare something, it is quite another to actually achieve it. Sure, the politicians could bluster, vote and declare their independence all they wanted, but the mother country, England was having none of it. That all changed in October of 1781 (See! We don't even celebrate the right year!) A year earlier, the British, under the command of General Cornwallis had successfully invaded South Carolina. His subsequent attempt to invade North Carolina was less successful however, and in April of 1781, he led his troops to the Virginia coast where he could maintain seaborne lines of communications with General Clinton in New York City. By August, Cornwallis had settled into Yorktown and began the task of fortifying the town along with Gloucester Point on the other side of York River.

This was the opportunity George Washington had been waiting for! He sent the Marquis de Lafayette with 5,000 troops to block off any escape routes from the town. Washington, in turn led 2,500 American men along with Count de Rochambeau's 4,000 French soldiers across the Hudson River on August 21st. In 15 days they covered 200 miles and reached the Chesapeake Bay headwaters in early September.

Alas, for poor General Cornwallis an unsuccessful attempt by the British fleet to defeat the French navy at the Battle of Virginia Capes on September 5th left him without much needed reinforcements. By September 28th, the upstart Americans had Yorktown surrounded.

By early October, the combined American and French forces numbered some 14,000 men and they slowly overcame the British positions aided by a large French fleet under the command of the Count de Grasse. A large British fleet finally did arrive but they were too late.

On October 19th, the British surrendered 7,087 officers and men, 900 seamen, 144 cannons, 15 galleys, a frigate and 30 transport ships. General Cornwallis conveniently claimed to be ill that day and sent General Charles O'Hara along with his sword to General Washington. As the British troops marched in and surrendered their rifles, the British band appropriately enough played "The World Turned Upside Down".

The British surrender at Yorktown effectively ended the Revolutionary War and truly gave us our independence. So, Happy 19th of October everybody!..... of course some would also argue that it should really be "Happy 3rd of September" the day in 1783 the Treaty of Paris was signed establishing the United States as an independent nation.

And that's history!



Veterans Day Breakfast!

Who said there's no such thing as a free meal?

We want to show our appreciation to our Legion members by inviting you to join us on Veterans' Day, 11 November at 9:00am for a free breakfast. Here's the deal:

- The free breakfast is only open to our Legion Post members (Veterans)
- All others are welcome as usual, but they will be expected to pay the normal \$8.50 (add \$1 if you want an Omelet)
- You are welcomed (and encouraged) to bring a Veteran friend with you, but they must join our Post before getting the free breakfast
- Anyone joining us for the free breakfast is expected to stay for the monthly membership meeting starting at 10:00am
- As always, donations are appreciated, but not required.



Motorcycle Minute

Bob "Einstein" Caddell; President

Greetings all.

The Riders had a very busy month. We raised better than \$4000.00 from our poker run and had an anonymous donation of \$5000.00 donated to the riders. The disposition of the \$5000 will be decided at our October Executive meeting. We want to get the most bang for our buck.

Three of our Riders went to DIA to escort the body of a fallen soldier back down to Swan Law. He was killed in a motorcycle accident ironically. They had a police escort from DIA to the funeral home. Must have been an awesome sight with 20 or so bikes following a hearse down the interstate for 60 miles. I understand that the fire department had their trucks on overpasses in Denver with lights going saluting this fallen Patriot. Unfortunately there was an incident when the procession started. Lets keep in mind why we ride staggered.

As I write this we should have been staging to go to Steamboat Springs for an our overnight ride but mother nature had other ideas. Like most of the west this year there are fires close to Steamboat. We'll try to do something in the near future.

The dinner for October is our Oktoberfest get together. The Warden is doing the cooking. If you have volunteer hours you can get them checked off helping out. Remember this is a RIDERS function and I need Riders to set up, serve, and hang around till we finish and then cleanup.

Our Neal Thomas Jr. run is at the end of September so if you want to join us, even in a cage, feel free. We ride to Bishops Castle and then to Obie's for lunch.

We supported Post 2008's "Stock the Pantry" poker run.

We have our food drive happening now for Thanksgiving boxes. Please bring in a donation of food and remember we take Turkeys in November.

The Homeless Veterans' Stand Down is October 17. It's a Tuesday so if you can make it please meet at the city auditorium. You can park at the YMCA top level of their parking garage.

I want to thank everyone that made the poker run such a huge success and to all that do what they do every month, day after day.

Ride safe and we'll see ya on the next big ride...



From the Junior Shooting Sports Chairman Ken Taylor

Thanks to all our Young Guns Rifle instructors who make this program possible. Our current instructors are Rusty Bower, Rick Kettering, Bill Weeks, Chuck Sorrels, Jesse Wade, David Hall and Becky Hall. We also welcome three new instructors to our ranks, Michael Wescott, Stan (Sgt. Ski) Krasinski and Jeraud Stuart. Mike, Stan and Jeraud will be getting their Rifle Instructor and Range Safety Officer credentials soon.

The Fall Young Guns Class started on September 14, 2017 with a full class of 12 new students. We started with introductions, then covered safety, range commands, and familiarization with our 177 air rifles. We saw a lot of enthusiasm and we're off to a great start!

NRA Marksmanship began on Wednesday September 13, 2017 with 12 participants. We have moved Marksmanship to a separate night to accommodate everyone who wished to participate.

The Annual Turkey Shoot will be held on Friday November 17, 2017 at 1900. Come show off your skills and win a turkey for your Thanksgiving table! We will have 3 categories, youth through age 12, youth 13 to 18, and those over 18. For a donation of \$5 you will have 5 shots from the standing position. Any ties will result in a shoot off, which will also be from the standing position. Come on out, support your Young Guns program and win that turkey!



**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 \$15.00 (Note: The cost was erroneously reported in a previous article) 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 Legion Post 209 friends - family - teammates,

Recently our Post donated 35 wall mounted classroom flags and two stand-up "Old Glories" to the new Colorado Military Academy (CMA) charter school located just outside the north gate of Peterson AFB. They were installed on Wednesday, 23 Aug 2017, the day before their Grand Opening and Open House that happened the next evening. The leadership and staff of CMA were thrilled to receive this gift for their new school.

I would like to sincerely thank the entire Post 209 family for supporting this awesome gesture of Americanism (Pillar #3).

Please visit the school at: <http://www.coloradomilitaryacademy.org>, <https://www.facebook.com/coloradomilitaryacademy> or <http://fox21news.com/2017/08/23/colorado-military-academy-states-first-k-8-military-style-school-to-hold-grand-opening/>.

Thank you all and please have a great day/week!



**From Squadron 209
Commander Ken Taylor**



Squadron 209 is continuing to collect "gently used" clothing for distribution to Veterans through the VA. The first load of clothing was delivered to Mr. Edward Adelman at the VA in August. Please bring your donations to the Post and place them in the box in the front entrance. We need men's, women's and children's clothing. Thank you to everyone who has donated, it is very much appreciated.

There will be a silent auction at the Post on Friday November 17th. This is being held to help fund our SAL programs such as Josh Dogs and the Child Welfare Foundation. Please help us by bringing donated items to the Post. If you no longer need it, we can use it!

If anyone knows of a child who could benefit from a Josh Dog, please contact the Post at 719-599-8624 or any SAL Squadron 209 Officer. Officers phone numbers are listed in the monthly Newsletter.

****NOTE****

SAL MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE 4TH TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 5:45PM.

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

Bringing a Little South to the West

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

Like many people in the post WWII era, we grew up poor. I suppose we weren't the poorest people in town, but having any extra money after bills were paid was a novelty.

As I mentioned last month, we lived in suburbia Memphis. Mom and Dad moved to that little house in June 1953 and Dad began his 43 year run at Hunter Fan Company. I was two months old (you do the math) when we moved. My little sister was a little over a year from being born. The house was a 3 bedroom, single bath home. We didn't have a shower, just a tub. I have a brother and two sisters. Growing up in a home with four kids, a Mother and Father who worked, and one bathroom proved to be a logistical challenge during school months. But as with many families in similar situations, we managed.

Dad did several things to help bring in some extra spending cash. Living on a corner lot with a heavy traffic street across the front made an ideal location for Dad to buy cheap cars, do a little work to make them road-worthy, and then sell them. He was one of the best "shade tree" mechanics I knew. He would park the cars in the front yard with good visibility from the two streets bordering our yard and a "For Sale" sign on the windshield. We never heard of an HOA, so parking a car in your yard was somewhat common in our neighborhood. Dad was a shrewd business man. He was able to find really good deals, and make money in the re-sell. I remember on one occasion he even sold a Nash Rambler. Anyone who can sell a Nash must be pretty good.

Dad would sell anything where he thought he could make money. For example, he would drive to Arkansas, load up his pickup with watermelons from a produce stand, and drive the country roads of eastern Arkansas, Northern Mississippi, and eastern Tennessee selling them out of the bed of his truck. My brother and I were the "hawkers." We rode in the back and when we came upon a farmhouse, we'd yell, "Watermelons! Get your fresh watermelons here!" Most of the time, the entire family would come out and inspect our goods. We always allowed them to pick any melon in the bed of the truck for \$0.50. I don't know if Dad ever really made any money doing that, but he must have done okay because we did it for a couple of years.

The extra duty I remember most vividly was selling hand tool handles. I mentioned this about this almost two years ago in an article, but I think it is worth reliving. We had a cousin who lived in northwest Arkansas and owned a sawmill. Dad would drive his pickup with a homemade camper in the bed to our cousin's and load it with hammer, pick, shovel, and many other hand tool hickory handles. We'd tie them up in bundles for ease of inventory and to keep them separated because to the untrained eye, a ball peen hammer handle looks very similar to a claw hammer handle. Same with a single vice a double bit ax handle.

By this time, my brother Eddie (a.k.a. Bubba) had his driver's license. So we'd head out to the small Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas towns to sell our wares. Over time, we built up a pretty good customer base of hardware and livestock tack stores. Our routine stops included McNairy County, the territory of Sheriff Buford Pusser. We met him a few times and he was always very pleasant in our brief exchanges. This was long before the Walking Tall Sheriff gained movie fame. As I think about it, he never once asked us for a permit. I guess back in those days, many people were doing what they needed to do to get by.

I got to be pretty good at selling handles. I had a spiel for new and returning customers alike. I always outsold Bubba and finally discovered why. We visited a small Tennessee town one day that had a town square. When we would go into a town such as this, Bubba would park the truck in the middle of the square. He'd start on one end and I'd go to the other and we'd work toward the center.

On this particular day, I was about 10 seconds slower getting to the last hardware store in the square. I walked in behind Bubba. He didn't know I was there and I didn't say anything. I was curious what he said to customers to get their business. He walked up to the clerk and asked for the manager. The man behind the counter told him he was the owner, at which Bubba asked, "You don't want any handles, do ya?" The man looked at him strangely and said, "Nope, I reckon not." That's how people from that part of the country talk.

I figured it out. How would anyone with a sales "pitch" like that sell anything? As we left, I said, "Really?! That's it?! That's all you got?!" No wonder I outsold him what seemed like 10-1.

Over the years, he got better and even made a good living as a sales rep for a tele-communications company he and his wife owned. I wonder though if it was his sales pitch that got the business or the great engineers who worked the bids. I think maybe it was the latter. Did I mention I used to work as a tele-communications engineer for a small family-owned company? Well, that's another story for another day.



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	719-373-7814
Historian	Chris Earley	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	719-373-7814
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	719-373-7814
Chaplain	Shelten Krasinski	719-373-7814
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Squadron Advisor	Don Shuck	

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; Oktoberfest! 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 Early Bird Dinner! RSVP Required! 6:00pm Free for Early Bird's! 	28 Halloween Party! 3:00pm - 5:00pm
29	30	31 Happy 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 Veterans' Day Parade! 9:00am
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 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 Happy Thanksgiving! 	24	25
26	27	28 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	29	30	Notes: Chef's Choice is cancelled this Month	

December 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm 	2
3	4 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	5	6	7 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm 	8 \$9.00 Meal Aux. Dinner RSVP Required! 6:00pm 	9 Post 209 Christmas Party! 4:00pm   
10	11	12	13	14	15 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!   	16
17	18 Honor Guard Mtg/Tng 6:00pm 	19	20	21 Winter Solstice Fundraising Committee Meeting 7:00pm	22	23
24	25 Merry Christmas! 	26	27	28	29	30
31	Notes: Chef's Choice Cancelled this Month ALR Executive Board Meeting Cancelled this Month					