

The Centennial

VOLUME IX EDITION 10

OCTOBER 2019



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917
719-599-8624

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2019 - 2020 OFFICERS!!

2019-2020 American Legion Post 209 Officers

Commander: Lino Calica	Finance Officer: Mike Barger	Executive Committeeman: Marvin Weaver Jr.
Sr. Vice Commander: Joseph Schmidt	Chaplain: Stan Hamamoto	Judge Advocate: Marvin Weaver Sr.
Jr. Vice Commander: Desiree Guerra	Historian: Mike Wescott	Service Officer: Art Carter
Adjutant: Jerry Hopper	Sgt At Arms: Sarah Tobin	Building Manager: Art Kimbrel

2019-2020 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

President: Cathy Barger	Secretary: Pat Weaver	Chaplain: Madelyne "Hooty" Newborn
Vice President: Donna Testorff	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes	Historian: Royce Hopper
	Sgt At Arms: Kris Floyd	

2019-2020 Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

Commander: Eric Testorff	Adjutant: Ken Taylor	Sgt At Arms: Bob Ingram
Sr. Vice Commander: Michael Wescott	Chaplain: Steve Cox	Immediate Past Commander: Stan Krazinski
Jr. Vice Commander: Richard Pecoraro	Historian: Evan Schwartzbart	

2019-2020 American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

President: Steve Hayes	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes	Communications: Wade Newborn
Vice President: Tim McDowell	Road Captain: John Hanchek	Historian: Andrew Pearson
Secretary: Cathy Barger	Sgt At Arms: Mark Griffin	Logistics: Mike Sylvester
	Pastor: John Coppedge	

2019-2020 Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Jon Davis K0YOV	Vice President: George Johnson KE0ALQ
Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU	Treasurer: Henry Russell KCONAJ
Director: Jim Harris WOEM	

For God & Country...



We associate ourselves together...

FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

I would like to WELCOME all our new members and their families who have joined or transferred to the Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 Legion family.

As the summer comes to a close and fall begins, we should also prepare for winter. During this fall season we will be having many events at the Post. Our first event is on October 9th. The National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford will be visiting Post 209 and having dinner with us. Everyone is invited to spend the evening with the National Commander. The menu will be chicken fried steak or baked chicken. In order to participate for this event please RSVP with Jackie Bowen at jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com or the American Legion website. When you RSVP, let us know which meal you want. If you have never met a National Commander, come on down to the dinner. It is a great experience to have the opportunity to spend time, listening and getting information on what is going on in The American Legion.

The Annual Homeless Veteran Stand down is upon us once again. The stand down will be held at the city auditorium on October 15th. If you have time in your schedule, we would love to have volunteers assist at the Auxiliary table or Legion Riders in providing security. If you have not been to a Veterans stand down, come on by and observe the community working together providing clothing, blankets, shoes, medical assistance and a hot meal to the homeless veterans and their families.

Currently our 2020 membership count is 590 members who joined or renewed their membership, that is roughly 54 percent. Thank you everyone in support of our 2020 Membership drive. There will be an Early Bird Dinner on Friday, 18 October. It is an annual "free" dinner for Post 209, Aux 209 or SAL 209 Members, who sign up or renew their membership on or before October 14th. This is a great time socialize and meet other Legionnaires and their families. RSVPs are required to participate in the early bird dinner. Please RSVP by going on Legion209.org and select the RSVP button. For those of you over 21, we have your favorite beverages upstairs on the second floor in our lounge.

The Halloween party will be at the Post on October 26th be from 2 - 4pm. This will give the children and adults an opportunity to dress up in their favorite Halloween costume. There will also be a contest of the scariest costume in the children and adult categories. We will have fun games to play, so bring your children and grandchildren to the Post and have some fun.



The United States Marine Corps "Toys for Tots" program, which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas is underway. We have a toys for tots box located in our Post, please help support this program and fill the box with toys.



Scouting has started their popcorn fundraiser drive, let us help and support our scouts and purchase their popcorns sales.

For more information on events within the Post, Log into LEGION209.ORG

Lino Calica
Post Commander

S.A.L.T. – Serving and Learning Together



“IN THE TRUEST SENSE,
FREEDOM CANNOT BE
BESTOWED; IT MUST
BE ACHIEVED.”

— FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT





FROM THE DESK OF THE SR VICE COMMANDER

I am happy to report that we have surpassed the 50% mark of our membership goal, but we still have a long way to go before we are at 100%. We must remember to share what our why is when promoting the American Legion, they must know that its more than collecting \$45, it's about the mission of serving Veterans.

A few Membership Notes:

With the signing of the LEGION ACT all Veterans regardless of when they served are eligible for membership in the American Legion, as long as they have one day of active Federal Service.

Male Spouses are now eligible for membership in the Auxiliary, no longer are the husbands of our veterans left out of our great American Legion Family!

Members are encouraged to share ideas of how to serve our community as a post, please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss your thoughts or ideas. Additionally, as your Sr. Vice Commander I would like the Membership of our Post to know I am available to talk about anything. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

All American Legion Post 209 Members who renew by October 14th, 2019 will be invited to attend the Early Bird Dinner. This Dinner is COMPLETELY FREE to show our appreciation for those who took the time to renew early and show support for our local post.

Indivial Recruiter Awards:

- 3 Members - Gift from the Post Sr. Vice Commander, Call from the Department Commander, and a National Membership Recruiter Pin.
- 5-10 Members - Membership Recruiter Pin & Certificate, Entry into Department Paid Up for Life Membership Drawing.
- 11-15 Members – Gift from Post Sr. Vice Commander, Department Membership Coin & Certificate
- 16-20 Members – Department Commanders Coin & Certificate
- 25+ Members – Eligible for Department & National Recruiter of the Year, Silver & Gold Brigade

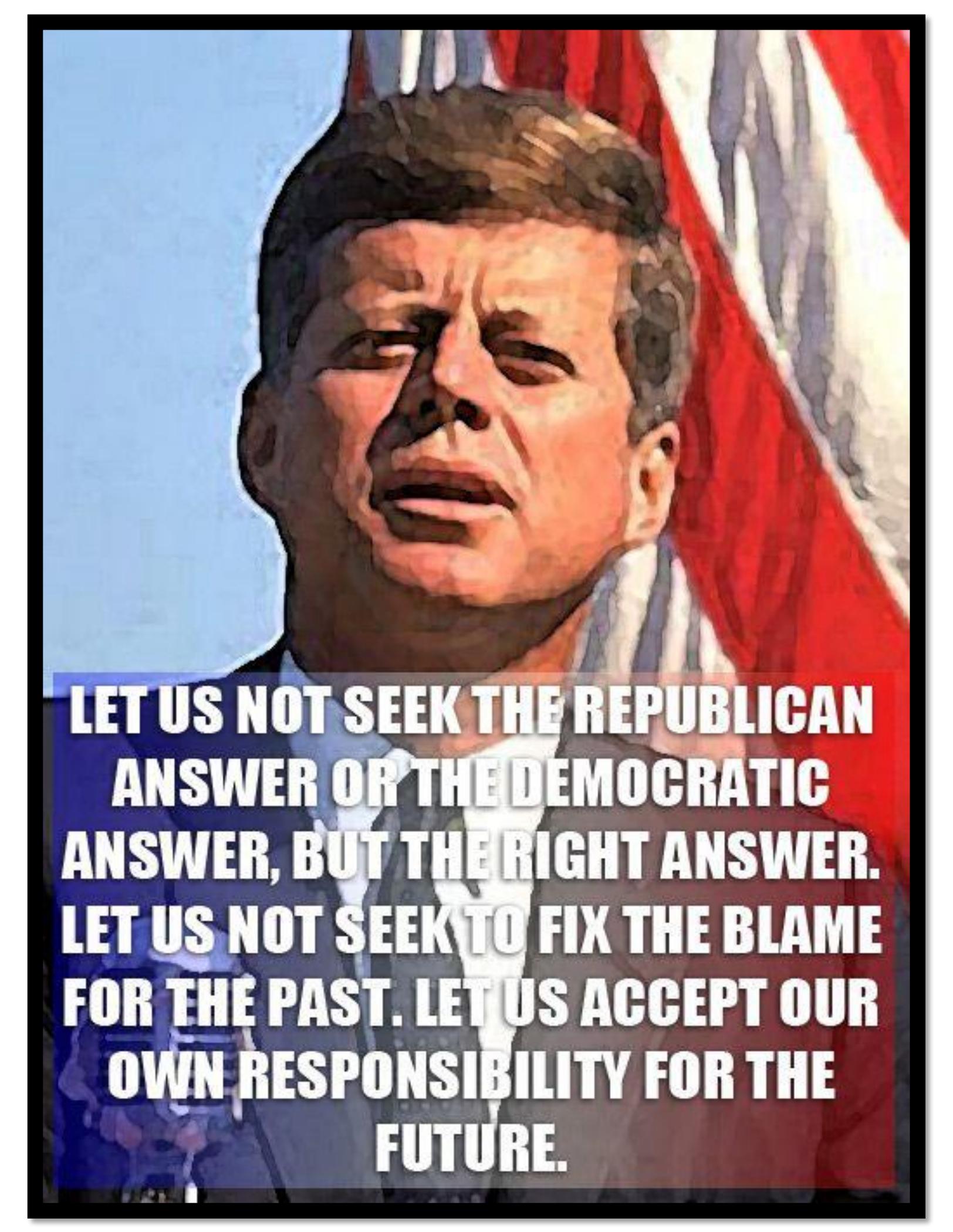
Awards are for Recruiting New Members into the American Legion

**The Absolute Key to Membership Success:
WORK THE PROGRAMS!**

Joseph A. Schmidt
Post Sr. Vice Commander



*Our obligations to our country
never cease but with our lives.*
--JOHN ADAMS

A stylized, high-contrast portrait of John F. Kennedy speaking, with an American flag in the background. The image has a grainy, posterized appearance. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

**LET US NOT SEEK THE REPUBLICAN
ANSWER OR THE DEMOCRATIC
ANSWER, BUT THE RIGHT ANSWER.
LET US NOT SEEK TO FIX THE BLAME
FOR THE PAST. LET US ACCEPT OUR
OWN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE
FUTURE.**



FROM THE DESK OF THE FINANCE OFFICER

There's a lot of misconception about nonprofits not being able to make money. It's best, if you can keep your profits as close to \$0 as possible, but a nonprofit organization can make a profit. Simply put, even though a nonprofit is not created for a profit-making purpose, it's allowed to make some profits along the way to fund its good works. As summer is beginning to wind down, our finances don't. We continue to have money coming in and out of the Post on a weekly basis. So far, we've been able to keep our head above water when it comes to our finances.

This report is for the month ending in August. Once again, we're in the black with a total of \$1870.65. As we move into September, we had 3 checks that hadn't cleared for a total of \$4670. \$4572 is for membership dues to Department. Once those checks clear, we will be in the red. Like I stated last month, \$36 of each member's dues don't stay here at the Post, but I still must show it as money coming in and then going out. That's the reason why once these checks clear, we'll be in the red after the first couple weeks of September. If anyone would like to see the monthly report, feel free to reach out to me and I'd gladly share it with you.

As for all the changes that are being done or have been done at the Post. It's our hope that all the renovations we've done with the replacement of windows, LED lighting in the Post and out in the parking lot, that this will help us on our utility bill, in the very near future. Keep in mind, we're setup with budget billing, so we're paying the same amount every month for 12 months. I'm sure some of you are on this plan with Colorado Springs Utilities. It's a great way to help a person when it comes to creating and living on a budget. We'll be able to see in our electrical and heating use if it goes down, here in the next couple of month or so. I will keep you all informed on what these results are shortly.

Mike Barger
Post Finance Officer





In the Spirit of Service and Not Self...

FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT

Wow, I can't believe that it's October already, 2019 is flying by too quickly. I love the crisp mornings, the leaves changing colors.

I 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 Indianapolis, in August.

National Auxiliary President Nicole Clapp visited Colorado in September. Her visit to Colorado included visiting our Unit and helping our Unit present a check from the Auxiliary Foundation to the Crawford House for much-needed repairs.

All Activities Day was a huge success, such a great day for the Legion Family can get together to support this activity.

Join us for our monthly membership meeting on October 12th, come down and join us for breakfast at 9:00 a.m., and our meeting at 10:00 a.m. We are working on getting the Flu Shot clinic set-up for October, more information will follow.

It's that time again, the Early bird dinner for all Legion family members that renew their membership by October 14th. New members that sign up by then will also get a free dinner. The dinner will be on October 18th at 6:00 p.m., RSVP to jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com. Every member is essential, and we need your participation in our many worthwhile programs. The 2020 Membership cards are here, be an "early bird" and renew now for the upcoming year. Dues are \$35 for Senior members and \$10 for Juniors.

The Homeless Veterans Stand Down will be on October 15th at the City Auditorium downtown. The Auxiliary will be providing four meals to the veterans that were selected to participate in the Transitional Housing initiative (HTI) at the hotel; the dates are October 20th and 27th and November 3rd and 10th.

The Halloween Party will be Saturday, October 26th at 3:00 p.m.

There will be a costume contest for adult and children's categories, fun games to play, and plenty of treats, scary & sweet! Please RSVP to jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com.

Don't forget we several parties coming up, in November we will participate in the Veteran's Day Parade. Finally, in December, we will have the annual Christmas Party.

Happy Birthday to Shavon Barringer, Karen Beard, Kendra Bock, Jackie Burd, Susan Calica, Kaitlyn Cancellieri, Jean Chladek, Joan Ciani, Elinor Eastman, Mary Grier, Margaret Harris, Shantel Harris, Kourtney Kimbrel, Dixie Kliewer, Sandra Luhnnow, Kim Palmer-Herzog, Savannah Mussmann, Brandilyn Orcutt, Annie Peterson, Kaitlyn Rose, Olivia Tighe, Margie Roth, Kari Ann Smith, Mavis Spath, Katrina Stone, Susan Thompson, Beatrice Trujillo, Theresa Wiederspahn, Lelia Vasquez. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

ALR will be conducting the October dinner; they will be celebrating Oktoberfest. Please come down and support the riders, and make sure to RSVP.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Cathy Barger
Unit President





BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

I learned to drive in a '58 Chevy Station Wagon and a '63 GMC Pickup truck. Both were standard transmission (stick shift), three speed "on the tree." This is the term used to describe the gear shifter behind the steering wheel on the column. My father didn't believe in owning a car with an automatic transmission. When asked why, he would say, "Boy, I'd rather live next door to somebody that had a car with an automatic transmission than to own one." In truth, he believed they broke down too often (which was true back in those days) and too expensive to fix.

Even though we lived in Memphis, most of our weekends and summer vacations were spent on farms in Arkansas with our grandparents, both paternal and maternal. You had to drive down gravel roads to get to their homes and that made great opportunities to put a kid behind the wheel and let them learn how to keep the car off the loose gravel and onto the ruts. Even before I was old enough to reach the gas pedal, brake, and clutch, Dad would let me sit in his lap and learn to steer while he worked the pedals and shifted gears. The trickiest part for me was keeping the car on the runners across the old wooden bridges we had to cross over the rivers and creeks. Mom wouldn't say a word, but I can still hear her draw a very deep breath as we crossed the bridges.

Driving a tractor was much easier as a young'un. I learned to drive tractors while on a big John Deere Model B, with the two front wheels together, giving the appearance of a three wheeled tractor, and a much smaller Ford 9N. When I was very young, my Grandfathers let me sit on their lap to steer going out to the field and coming home, but they never let me plow the fields. That required you to drive straight all the time. They did however, let me drive the field when they used the harrow to bust dirt clods. Doing that didn't require a specific driving skill, you just drove all over the field and let the spikes in the harrow break up the dirt clods to get the field ready for plowing. I wasn't given the privilege of plowing the fields until I could reach the brake pedal. By that time, I knew how to maneuver the tractor and work the two brake pedals (which could be a challenge when making sharp turns). On the John Deere, the two brake pedals were side-by-side, almost touching each other. It took a while to learn whether to depress both at the same time with one foot or to only brake the left or right side to make sharp turns. If you pressed only one brake, it would slow or even lock the rear wheel, which helped make those short turns needed at the end of a row.

Anyway, back to the cars and trucks. The hardest part of driving was learning the art of a smooth take off from a stop. I had to learn how to give the car just enough gas to prevent a stall when letting off the clutch. Too much gas could result in "spinning the wheels" and kicking up gravel, which didn't make Dad very happy. Not enough gas would inevitably result in stalling the car or having it "jerk" down the road until I either pushed the clutch back in or gave it a little more gas. And the truck was even more of a challenge than the car. The truck had a heavy duty clutch, which made it harder to press and more sensitive to let up, and with the light back end (unless there was a load in the bed of the truck) you could very easily fishtail when taking off. That didn't make Dad very happy either.

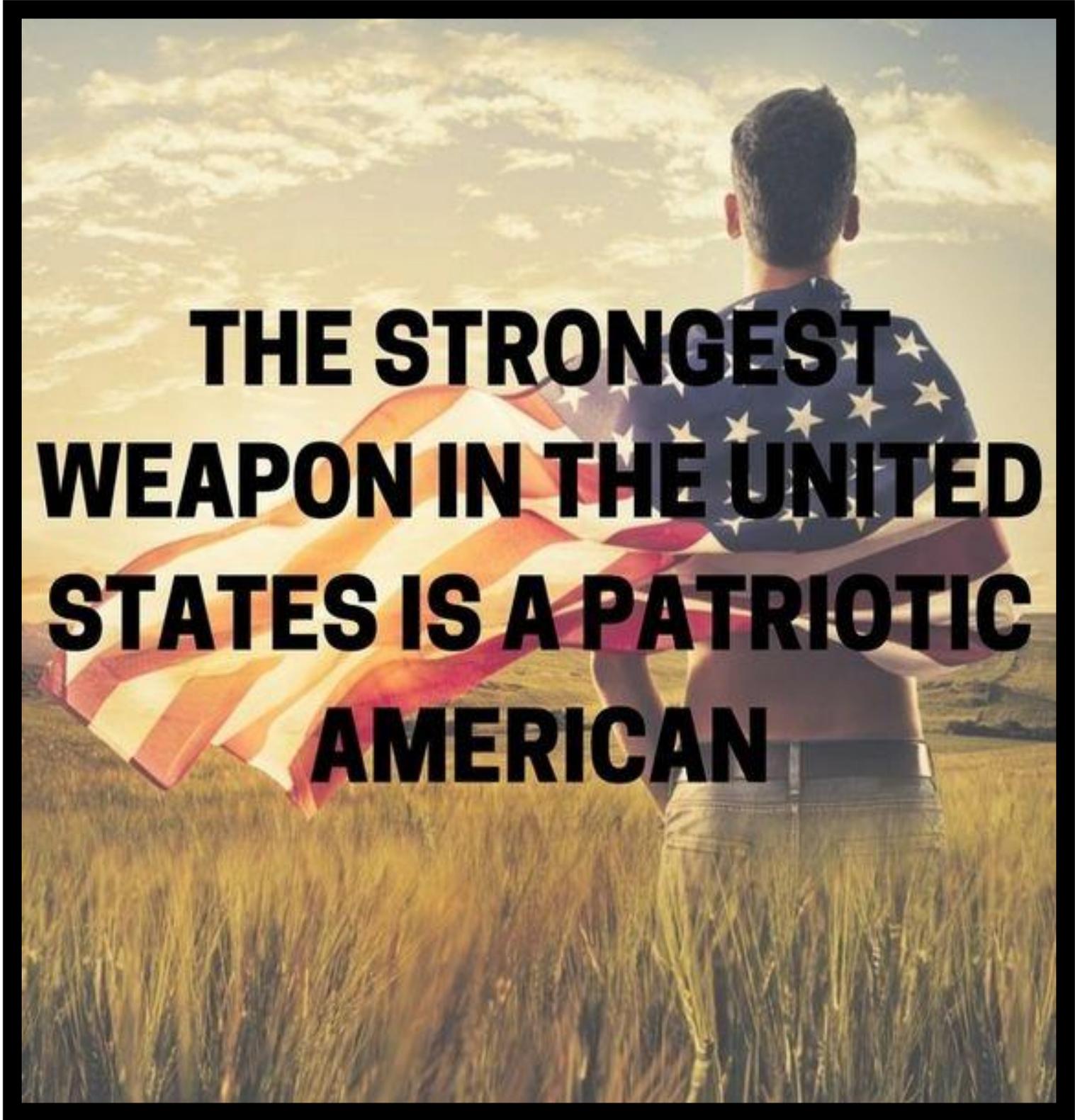
Our Grandfathers were much more patient than Dad when allowing us to drive. This was especially true with Paw-Paw, my Mother's father. He didn't have a care in the world, or so it would appear. I remember on one trip returning from the little country store in town, as soon as we hit the gravel road, he pulled over to let me drive home. I was doing pretty well for the 3 or 4 mile trip. Their mailbox was about a quarter of a mile from the house, so as we approached the mailbox, Paw-Paw told me pull up close on the passenger side so he could get the mail. I started inching my way to the right as we got closer and he said, "Boy, you gotta get closer than that! I don't want to have to get out of the truck to check the mail." So I moved a little more to the right as we closed in on the mailbox, but he still didn't feel it was close enough and told me get even closer. So I did...and knocked over the mailbox. He just looked at me and said, "Well boy, I didn't mean for you to get that close." And that was all he said about it. He wasn't mad, it was just one of those things.

As I got older, I was trusted to drive on the blacktop. I found that was much easier than driving on gravel, there were lines to help you keep the car where it needed to be. Take offs and stopping was much easier. By the time I was within 6 months of my 16th birthday and old enough to get a

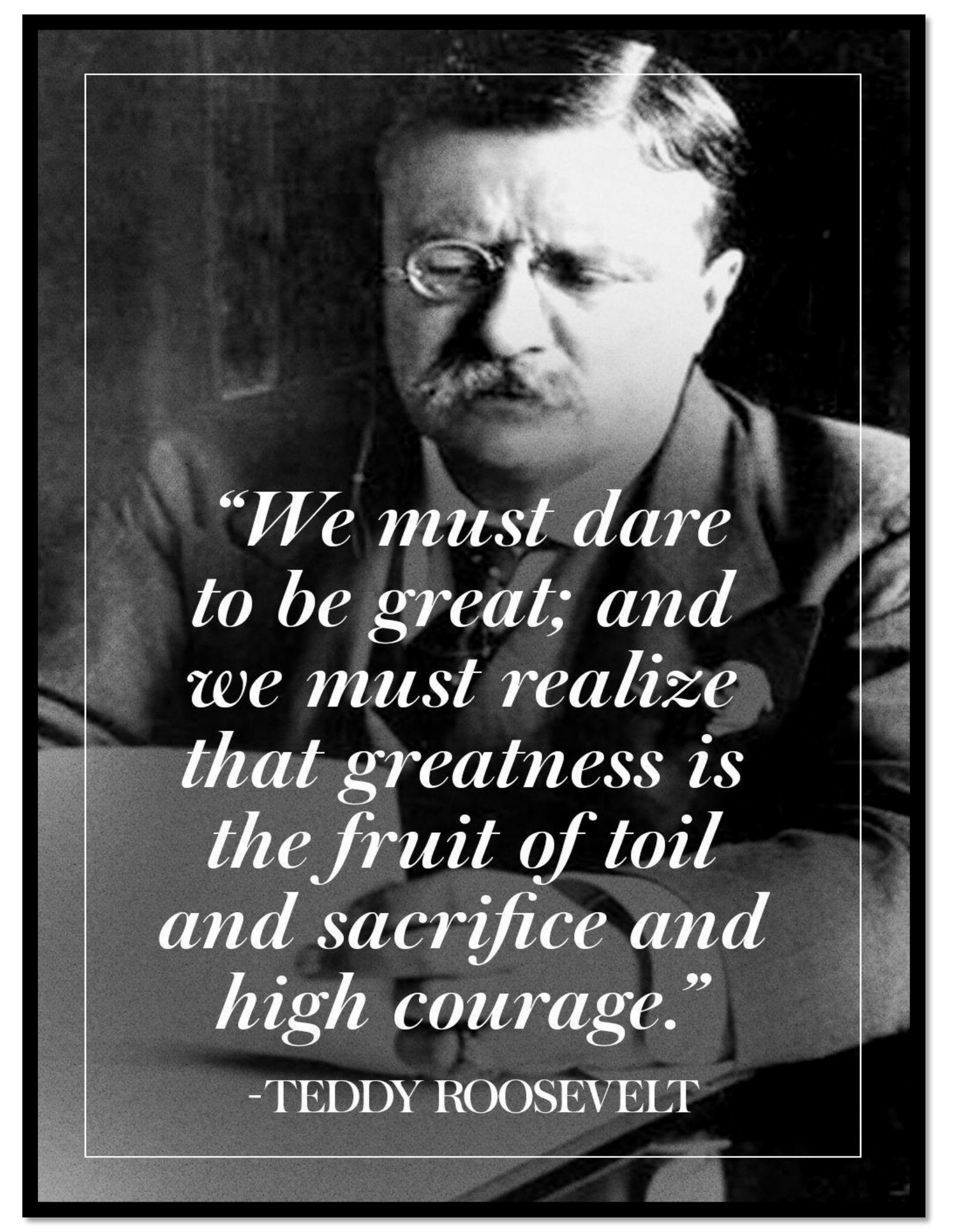
learner's permit, I was an "old hand" at driving. And by the time I turned 16, I could safely drive solo and able to run errands, which I did every time I had the chance.

Most kids today can't drive a stick. That's too bad. If you can drive a stick, you can drive anything on or off the road. We've lost a great opportunity teaching our kids, and with that we also lost the opportunity to spend more time with them. I taught my kids the same way I was taught, and now both boys are very capable of driving anything. And they can write in cursive! But that's another story for another day. I'm going for a drive.

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander

A photograph of a man from behind, standing in a field of tall grass under a cloudy sky. He is holding a large American flag that is draped over his shoulders and extends behind him. The text is overlaid on the image.

**THE STRONGEST
WEAPON IN THE UNITED
STATES IS A PATRIOTIC
AMERICAN**

A black and white portrait of Teddy Roosevelt, showing him from the chest up. He is wearing a suit, a tie, and round-rimmed glasses. He has a prominent mustache and is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a serious expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

*“We must dare
to be great; and
we must realize
that greatness is
the fruit of toil
and sacrifice and
high courage.”*

-TEDDY ROOSEVELT

IN A CHANGING
WORLD, ONE
THING STAYS
THE SAME:

*The Military
Experience.*

IT'S THE BOND

Between Veterans who have served America, from the fields of Europe to the jungles of Asia to the deserts of the Middle East and everywhere in between!

"WE WILL NOT FAIL

those with whom we've served," was the promise by generations of Veterans. Help us continue the Legacy!

JOIN

Today's American Legion-bonded through service, committed to the future!



**THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

*Neal Thomas Jr.
Centennial Post 209
3613 Jeannine Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80917
(719) 599-8624
www.legion209.org*

***WAR TIME VETERANS-
JOIN US TODAY!!***



Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it ... it flies with the last breath of each soldier who died protecting it

◀ September

October 2019

November ▶

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Executive Meeting 6:30pm Young Guns 6:30pm 	4 Hamdogger Dinner 6:00	5
6	7 Pikes Peak Honor Gd. Meeting 6:00pm 	8	9 National Commander 5pm Social & Dinner RSVP Required! Marksman 6:30 p 	10 Young Guns 6:30pm 	11 Come Out Day ALR Dinner 	12 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am 
13	14 Columbus Day Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	15 Homeless Veteran City Auditorium 8:00 am	16 Marksman 6:30 p 	17 TALARC Meeting 7p  Young Guns 6:30pm 	18 Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required! 	19
20	21 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm   	22 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm   	23 Marksman 6:30 p 	24 Young Guns 6:30pm 	25 Welcome PNC Dinner 6:00 Fundrasier for Boy State RSVP Required!  	26 Post Halloween Party 3-5
27	28 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	29	30	31 Halloween	Notes:	