



The Centennial

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AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209



3rd Annual Post 209 9-11 Memorial Walk 2024

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



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From the Desk of Our Commander

It is October and the leaves are well into changing into their gorgeous fall colors. October is the anniversary month of several significant events in our area. October 12, 1871, Colorado Springs was founded by General William Palmer, a Civil War hero, and railroad magnate. The city's location at the foot of Pikes Peak made it an ideal spot for tourism and outdoor recreation. On October 20, 1890, Robert Miller Womack strikes gold at Cripple Creek near Pikes Peak, changing the path of economic development in the region. Finally, on October 3, 1955, the United States Air Force Academy officially opened its doors in Colorado Springs. Since then, the academy has been a vital institution in the U.S. military, training and preparing young men and women for leadership roles within the Air Force, and most recently, the Space Force.

Within the post building, the audio-visual upgrade continues to progress. In addition to the new WiFi and web conferencing capabilities introduced in August/September, we now have the ability to project single source video and audio presentation throughout the meeting rooms and we have a set of rotating information kiosk displays in the entry and serving areas that can also be projected throughout the rooms. Through the generous donations of some of our members, we have LED TV displays for each meeting room. This all adds a great set of capabilities to our post facility. We will be adding network capability, security camera display and additional video displays in the coming weeks. Thanks to everyone that has donated or assisted with the effort so far.

In addition to AV capabilities, we have improved the safety and security of our outside with recent Scout projects. These include an Eagle Scout project consisting of construction of a fence closing off the South end of our lot and refurbished horseshoe pits by Ben Dallies (Crew 762 and Troop 194). For her Venture Summit Award project, Corinna Callahan (Crew 762) extended the concrete slab on the back patio bordering the play area, adding a handrail and 3 inch rise ramps off the slab, making the back area more accessible as well as removing the fall hazard that existed at the end of our existing slab. These are awesome improvements to our Post home.

Come on by and check it all out! See you at the Post!

Steve Hayes
Post Commander



**SoCo Honor Flight
#19 in the books!**





From Our Adjutant

Thank you to those who have already renewed for 2025. If you have not yet renewed, please send it as quickly as possible. A Reminder that for all who renew or join prior to October 15th we will be having our Early Bird Dinner on October 18th. What is Early Bird you ask? Well, an Early Bird is that Legionnaire that renews for the coming year early. As an incentive to renew early we will be having our annual Early Bird Dinner. The dinner will be Chicken Fried Chicken. Every Legionnaire, Auxiliary member, or SAL member that has renewed or joined by October 15th and sends in their RSVP will receive that dinner for free that night. I can tell you the chicken fried chicken is one of my favorite meals that we offer at the Post so don't miss out; renew early and I hope to see you there.

With the Post being upgraded with the AV setup to provide monitors in all the rooms not only are the General Membership Meetings available on Zoom, we can also broadcast the tv throughout the building. With that we are looking at showing some of the bigger sporting games at the Post. We will for sure have the Army/Navy football game on but are looking at the Air Force/Army & Navy games along with a few other big rivalry games. If you would be interested in coming down to the Post to watch the games with us send an email to adjutant@legion209.org so we can get an idea of the interest in this and then tune in to the 411 for upcoming games we will show.

I am in the office on most Mondays from 9:30 – 3:00. If you want to bring your renewal to the Post you can do so at that time. I just ask that you call when you get to the Post; if you see a blue Sentra in the parking lot I am there but I will need to unlock the door to let you in. When I am at the Post by myself I lock the front door so I know who is in the building. I am not just processing membership while at the Post so you don't have to be turning in your renewal to come see me. I am always available if you just want to talk or have Legion questions.

Thanks for all you do to help Veterans and the Post.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Adjutant



From our Sons of The American Legion Commander

As the year rushes along, so did the month of September, and our squadron featured several events that highlighted our ongoing dedication to service and camaraderie. We were thrilled to see attendance double at our monthly 5 Star and 10 Ideals Program Meeting, and we are hoping to continue that momentum in October. Attendees delved deeper into the opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and community service these programs provide.

In addition, the SAL hosted a successful Friday Night Fundraising Dinner, with all proceeds dedicated to purchasing American Legion Family (ALF) Dogs. These stuffed animals play a special role in providing support and comfort to the children of active-duty service members at Evans Army

Community Hospital on Fort Carson. If you missed the chance to contribute to this heartwarming cause, please contact a squadron officer to learn how you can still donate.

We invite everyone to join us in future events as we continue to bring our community together in meaningful ways, supporting those who serve our country and their families. Your participation makes a difference!

As we enter October, we have several significant occasions to commemorate. Each of these dates holds a special place in our hearts as we honor the brave men and women who have served our great nation. Here are the important events for this month:

Navy Birthday - October 13, 1775

Mark your calendars for October 13th as we celebrate the 249th birthday of the United States Navy. Established in 1775, the Navy has been a critical force in defending our freedom and projecting American strength across the seas. As we recognize their rich history, let's take time to express our gratitude for the men and women who have served in this vital branch of our military.

Navy Day - October 27, 1922

Later in October, we'll celebrate Navy Day on October 27th. Established in 1922 to honor the service and accomplishments of the United States Navy, this day is a reminder of the Navy's commitment to protecting our nation. Whether through defending our coasts or providing humanitarian assistance globally, the Navy's contributions are invaluable. We encourage all our members to take part in commemorating this important day.

As we reflect on these important dates, let us also acknowledge the continuous efforts of all our members in supporting our veterans and active-duty service members. Your dedication to our cause is what makes our organization strong.

Upcoming Events and Announcements:

10 October, at 1730 Monthly 5-Star and 10-Ideals Program Meeting
Invaluable opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and community service.

24 October, at 1730 Monthly Meeting
Please make sure to attend as we will be discussing upcoming activities and events.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the Sons of the American Legion. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those who have served our country.

For God and Country,

Corinna Callahan Summit Award Project



Chris
Hollingsworth
SAL Commander





9/11 Remembrance Walk

I want to thank everyone who came out to the Post's 3rd annual 9/11 Remembrance Walk. I also want to share why this walk is so important to me, beyond fostering comradery within our community, and encourage you to find what is important to you that you can share with our Legion family.

I am not a product of the Global War on Terror. Enlisting in the Army in 1979 just before the Iran Hostage Crisis I served 20 years with my only deployments to Germany and Korea. During this time, we saw very short conflicts in Panama, Grenada, Iraq, and other smaller scale ops. After I became an NCO, I had to take any lessons learned and all of the changes in Army doctrine and upgrades in tech and do my best to train my troops while still doing the other duties that come with service; inspections, motor pool maintenance, inspections, weapons maintenance, inspections, Post details and, oh yeah, inspections.

When I retired, I thought no more about it, concerned with finding a job and raising two kids. 9/11 was 10 months later. Immediately the doubt and separation set in. I started thinking about all the troopers that I left behind. Did I do enough? Are they ready for this? Being retired and not the friend making type, I no longer had contact with the community and over time as the wars transformed and the Army changed again, I could no longer say that I could understand what they're going through. I had no idea.

It wasn't until 2014 when I became involved in the Legion at MO Post 626 and reentered the Veteran community that I started to feel somewhat reconnected, but I also noted the day that "my troopers" got called to war, our civil servants sacrificed so much for, that American families became involved in a very serious time not seen since December 7th 1941, was slowly fading into history. And that's fine, trauma should not live in front of us all the time, but it should at least be noted occasionally.

We bought a button making machine at Post 626 and hand-made commemorative buttons that we passed out in front of the local Walmart on 9/11 the same as we did with Poppies in May for Memorial Day. Not only did we make money from the can donations but those pins remained in the community to remind people of what their first responders were ready to do for them as the poppies do for our service members.

When Michele and I first moved to Colorado Springs we visited Memorial Park and I took note of the GWOT, Fire Fighter and Peace Officer memorials all in one place. Fantastic! I took the idea to the Executive Committee and they supported it. If memory serves, I think we had 8 people at the first walk, some even came in their car and drove around to the different memorial and waited for the walkers. The number was somewhat disappointing to me, but I am persistent, and the next year we had a couple more. This year was the most we had and involved at least 3 Auxiliary members, some Sons members and riders, and Legionnaires that I don't recognize. 15 out of our total membership doesn't seem like much but it is a good start and the community interaction we had this time around that Jay Bowen described on Facebook is really priceless. And remember, "To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars; To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation" is said at the beginning of every Post Membership Meeting.

So again, Thank You! I am terribly sorry to have missed it. I promised Bobby Senter that I would ride the orange beast alongside him and Rufus, but I couldn't make it happen. Thank you, Jay for taking the lead for me.

And if you would like to contribute with a program, give it some thought and bring it forward. Be prepared to do the work because those that think it, do it, but ask for help and you will probably receive it. Do not get discouraged and give it some time. If one idea does not work out (Remember the Saturday walks from

the Post?) give something else a try. And support those that are leading other efforts just by showing up, volunteer for range duties with the young guns, join in on the Veterans Day Parade float, attend Memorial Day services. Opportunities are endless, just step forward.

“Always Forward”

Doug Millison
Past Adjutant



From our Post Historian

First World War American servicemen earned a disproportionate number of Medals of Honor during the month of October 1918, as U.S. forces were the determining factor in the final offensives against Germany. I'd like to highlight one of these brave men, whose personal story also tragically demonstrates our ongoing need to “Be the One” to help veterans at risk of suicide.



Major Charles Whittlesey commanded the 1st Battalion (308th Infantry) during the October 1918 Meuse-Argonne offensive. Whittlesey and his men were cut off from divisional communications and supply lines. For nearly six days, with little food and water, they endured a constant barrage of German firepower, as well as friendly fire from Allied artillery. Following orders to “advance regardless of losses,” Whittlesey ordered his men to hold their position. On the fourth day, Maj. Whittlesey received from the enemy a written proposition to surrender. Although he was at the time surrounded by the enemy, out of rations, and had suffered over fifty percent casualties, he treated the proposal with contempt, reportedly replying “You can go to Hell!” When the “Lost Battalion” (as it came to be known) was finally rescued, two-thirds of Whittlesey’s 554 men were either killed or wounded. For his heroic leadership under fire, Whittlesey was

awarded the Medal of Honor. After the war, he regularly visited wounded veterans, volunteered with the Red Cross, and attended countless veteran funerals. Writing to a friend, he said, “Not a day goes by but I hear from some of my old outfit, usually about some sorrow or misfortune. I cannot bear it much more.” Two weeks after serving as pallbearer at the 11 November 1921 burial of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, he took his own life. In his eulogy at Whittlesey's funeral, Colonel Averill, the 308th's commander, said Whittlesey's death "was in reality a battle casualty" and that he met his end “as much in the line of duty as if he had fallen by a German bullet.”

Notable October events in American Military History

The U.S. Navy celebrates its birthday on 13 October. On this date in 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the fitting out of two armed vessels to intercept British munitions transports supplying their troops in the American colonies.

Two of the most significant American victories in the American Revolution occurred during the month of October. On 17 October 1777, British General Burgoyne surrendered his forces at the Battle of Saratoga, NY; the American victory convinced the French government to support the American cause. And on 19 October 1781, British General Cornwallis surrendered his forces at Yorktown, VA to General

Washington's Continental Army and their French allies. Yorktown was the last major land battle of the war and paved the way for British recognition of American independence.

Cold War nuclear conflict was narrowly averted during the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962. President Kennedy's diplomacy was dependent upon the effectiveness of the American naval "quarantine" and the credibility of U.S. military preparedness. America's first ready-to-launch intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), Minuteman I, described by Kennedy as his strategic "ace in the hole," became operational during the crisis.

With the launch of Operation Enduring Freedom on 7 October 2001, U.S. airstrikes began targeting Taliban and al-Qaida forces in Afghanistan in response to the September 11 attacks.

Kurt Skinner
Post Historian



From Our Auxiliary President

Happy October & Happy Fall.

Our Early Bird dinner is coming up on October 18th. Make sure you pay your 2025 membership by October 15th & you can get the dinner on October 18th for free! If you have not paid your membership by the 15th, the dinner is \$15, same price for guests attending.

October 25th we are hosting the Victory Service Dogs fundraiser dinner again this year. If you have anything you would like to donate for the silent auction please bring it in! Also, if you would like to volunteer to help, please let us know! Each year this event seems to get bigger!

Happy birthday to all of our members who had or have birthdays in August, September, & October!

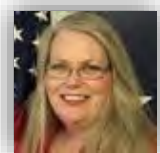
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY 2025 DUES ARE DUE!!

It is that time of year again and we are collecting dues for the 2025 year. Senior members are \$45 and Juniors are \$12. How can you pay for your dues you ask?...

- 1 Go to www.legion209.org and pay online. (There is a \$2 charge for paying through Paypal.)
- 2 See Kellie Hayes at the meeting or at a Friday dinner. You can pay via cash, check (payable to ALA 209) or you can charge it on the square (There is a \$2 charge for using the square)
- 3 Mail a check (payable to ALA 209) to ALA 209, 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80917.
- 4 Go to the ALA National website www.legion-aux.org and pay online

Are you interested in a PUFL (Paid Up For Life) membership? See Kellie for more information.

Royce Hopper
Unit President





From Our Post Chaplain

Man has always desired to see God. After all, we are visual learners and seekers of truth. God placed those yearnings within us, and since ancient times, the Church has understood them, providing images for the formation and inspiration of the faithful.

Long ago, when the ability to read was uncommon, icons were among the first visual representations of one's faith. In the early years of Christianity, the belief in a "King of Kings" was quite controversial and around 50 to 60 BC Christians and Jews were exiled from Rome. Many Jews saw this new faith as being a threat to their authority over their socio-economic and political control so Christians were driven in to hiding for a time by both the Roman Imperial Guard and the Jewish temple authoritarians.

In the early days of the burgeoning Christian faith the most common symbol representing believers in the resurrection of the new messiah was a Greek symbol of the fish called an ichthus. As there are many different theories as to the origins of the use of this symbol history denotes that this symbol was extensively used to identify an individual or family as someone who considered themselves to be followers of the Christian faith. Chiseled, carved, or painted into a door or casing the symbol indicated a friendly environment for the sharing of the gospel. Some archeologists have identified the symbol to indicate an entrance to an early church which mostly were conducted in people's homes. Drawn as two opposing arches, the symbol ichthus was commonly used as a way to identify a person as a Christian believer. By drawing an arch in the sand or on a surface one would allow for the other person to complete the symbol with the opposing arch. This way one could ascertain their kindred spiritual beliefs, thereby avoiding conflict with non-believers.

Many centuries later the cross became the primary symbol for the Christian faith and is commonly used in our culture today. Though there are variations of the cross, as an icon there are many variations of the ichthus also. It would appear in our modern time the ichthus is experiencing a resurgence in its popularity. Perhaps in the not to distant future, it will be commonplace to see likeminded people drawing arches.



Jim Bird

Post Chaplain



From our Color/Honor Guard Captain

The Post 209 Honor Guard had the honor and privilege to provide Full Final Honors for a WWII veteran at the Post following the General Membership Meeting on Saturday, September 14. PFC Clarence Stubbs, U.S. Army, passed away in February, 1998. PFC Stubbs was never provided the Final Honors he earned, and as a member of the Greatest Generation, definitely deserved. PFC Stubbs' grandson, Post 209 member Brian Wess, asked if the Post 209 Honor Guard could

help with getting his grandfather's Final Honors. Of course, the answer was "Yes." Just over 26.5 years since his passing, Honor Guard members provided Full Final Honors, which included the three rifle volleys, TAPS, and the folding/presentation of the American Flag to Brian. Also, the Honor Guard always presents three expended rounds (engraved with DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY) to signify the three rifle volleys and the Veteran's dedication to Duty, Honor, Country. Other members of PFC Stubbs' family were able to participate via Zoom. A short memorial followed, allowing PFC Stubbs' family to share stories and information about him.

Unfortunately, the situation like PFC Stubbs happens way too often. Unless the Veteran passes away in an area with a larger military presence, a National Cemetery, or a State Veterans Cemetery it takes the family and/or the funeral service provider to know that Final Honors are to be provided. It is these situations that show more education for family and planning by the Veterans themselves is needed. Even then, if there is not any military nearby to provide the Final Honors, the duty falls on the local Veteran Service Organization (VSO) Honor Guards. This can be a huge challenge. For example, in the Front Range area, the Post 209 Honor Guard is the ONLY VSO Honor Guard in Colorado Springs available for Veterans of any service (the Marine Corps League is available for Marine Veterans). The next closest VSO Honor Guard is Pueblo. Fortunately, Colorado Springs has military services available (Active Duty, Reserves, and National Guard) to help support Final Honors. Even then, too many Veterans end up not receiving Full Final Honors, or sometimes any Final Honors. This is where the VSO Honor Guard needs to be able to fill the gap. ALL Veterans need to receive their Final Honors, there is no excuse for not having Final Honors available.

So, after the previous paragraph, now it is time for the standard ending of my newsletter article – Want to be part of a great team? The Honor Guard needs to gain more new team members in order to ensure we are able to continue supporting our veterans and our community. Understandably, not everyone has much time to participate in the Honor Guard. In reality, all someone needs are a few available hours: about an hour to participate a night for a training meeting (check the newsletter calendar or the calendar on the Honor Guard website - <https://legion209.org/honorguard209/> and up to a couple of hours for an event. So around three hours a month for a meeting and just **ONE** event is all you need to make a difference in helping support our veterans and our community. Members of The American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion, and The American Legion Auxiliary are all eligible to be members of the Honor Guard with all uniform items provided except Legion family-specific cap and shoes. If you or someone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please reach out to me at: (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org.

Like and Follow Post 209 Honor Guard" Facebook page. The link is at the top of the Honor Guard website: <https://legion209.org/honorguard209/>

Joel W. Haas
Honor Guard Captain





From our Junior Shooting Sports Program

The Young Guns Basic Course provides youth ages 10-18 years old (boys and girls) the opportunity to learn about firearms safety and basic shooting skills. During Young Guns, credentialed National Rifle Association (NRA) Basic Rifle Instructors teach the safe handling of firearms, shooting positions (prone, kneeling, and standing), how to zero a rifle, and how to score targets. At the end of the course, the youth have a competition shoot against the others in the course in order to show off the skills they have learned. The Marksmanship Course provides graduates of Young Guns the opportunity to further develop their shooting skills. Both courses have a credentialed NRA Range Safety Officer (RSO) overseeing the range and ensuring all activities are conducted safely and in accordance with the JSSP Range Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). If you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, neighbor kid, etc. interesting in learning about firearm safety, contact the Post 209 JSSP at: jssp209@gmail.com

The Fall 2024 classes have started with Marksmanship on Wednesday September 11 (4:45pm, 5:45pm, and 6:45pm) and Young Guns, Thursday September 12 (6:15pm), both at Post 209. We look forward to teaching the students grow their skills. The Awards Night and Pizza Party will be Thursday November 14, a great opportunity to celebrate everyone's accomplishments.

The JSSP needs Instructors, RSOs, and Volunteers to support the program to ensure the continuation of quality instruction and a safe range for the students taking part in the program(s). A National Rifle Association (NRA) Basic Range Safety Officer (RSO) Course is scheduled for 7:30am – 5:00pm on Sunday November 3, 2024 at Post 209. The course is open to those at least 21 years old and legally able to own/possess a firearm. All materials, lunch, facility use, etc. are included in the course costs.

- \$60 for Post 209 JSSP volunteers and Post 209 Legion Family members;
- \$90 for local junior shooting program volunteers and local Legion Family members; and
- \$120 for general public, if there are any openings remaining.

If you are interested in the NRA RSO course, volunteering, or just learning more about the Post 209 JSSP, please email: jwhaas.jssp209@gmail.com.

Like and Follow “Centennial Post 209 Young Guns Shooting Sports” Facebook page. The link is at the top of the Young Guns website: <https://legion209.org/young-guns/>

Joel W. Haas
JSSP Instructor





Salty Dog

Man Overboard:

“Man Overboard, Man Overboard, Man Overboard Port (Starboard) Side. All hands muster on station.”

When a ship gets underway every sailor knows that they will be hearing this within a couple hours. It is done to ensure everyone is onboard and a good accounting of everyone and that they did not miss ships movement. Missing ships movement can be a court martial offense.

You definitely do not want to hear this at other times because that means that someone fell overboard or that someone saw something that looked like a person overboard. This really is not fun when it happens in the middle of the night especially after being on deck for the past 12 hours. Your adrenaline gets running because you think one of your shipmates is in the water and when it turns out to be false going back to sleep is not easy.

When man overboard is sounded the motor whale boat gets manned and the SAR helicopter gets manned as well. During my 6 years onboard the two ships I was stationed on we had many false calls but only once did someone actually go over the side thankfully.



Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Post 209 Adjutant





Bringing A Little South to the West

Growing up in the south meant spending days and weeks on and near lakes, rivers and streams. Most of the time we were fishing, but we also cooled off from the heat and humidity swimming in those lakes and rivers. Even now, when I pass a lake, I recall the challenges of learning to swim.

It was Dad's job to teach us kids how to swim. He never tried to teach all four at the same time, he devoted quality time to each of us until we got the hang of it. And he was not above bribing us, if necessary, as an incentive to concentrate on the basics of swimming.

By the time it was my turn, I was probably six or seven years old. We were at Sardis Lake in Mississippi, one of our favorite local spots for fishing, swimming and skiing. We normally could make the drive from our suburban home in Memphis to Sardis in a little over an hour.

My older sister, Dee and my one-year older brother Eddie (a.k.a. Bubba) had already been taught the basics and were well on their way to developing a good swimming technique. By now, they could stroke the water and kick without hardly a splash. Me, I was pretty good swimming underwater while holding my breath, but that was about it.

The teaching technique Dad used was to teach us first how to "dog paddle." He knew if we could learn to make a sweeping movement with our arms underwater and kick our feet with legs bent, we could very likely move through the water without drowning. While using this method didn't normally get us very far, it at least kept our head above water.

As with most things growing up, I was a slow learner. I fought more than embraced the "dog paddling" method. This didn't help move me along (pun intended). Dad knew this about me and was ready. Earlier, he had bought Bubba a Facemask or Swimming Goggles. Now for those who have read a few of my offerings, you may remember that Bubba and I were very competitive growing up. Whatever he got, I wanted. Not because I needed it, or could even use it. That didn't matter. If Bubba had something, I had to have one too. Dad knew this. So, on that day at Sardis while he was trying to get through my hard head the basics of "dog paddling," he whipped out a brand-new Facemask. He positioned himself about 15 feet from me in what was about shoulder deep water and told me to swim to him. And if I did, I could have the Facemask.

That was all the incentive I needed. I pushed myself forward as hard as I could and began the arduous task of "dog paddling" toward Dad moving my arms and kicking my feet as fast and hard as possible. It was slow going, but it was going. By the time I got within his arm's-length, I was worn out and gave up. As I began my descent toward the bottom of the lake, I felt Dad's hand grab my shoulder and pull me up and toward him. To my surprise, he handed me the Facemask. Either he felt I actually passed the lesson and learned to swim, or he felt sorry for me and just wanted this lesson to end as much as I did. Either way, I got my Facemask. And being the typical me, I immediately returned to my old ways of swimming underwater. But now, I had something that allowed me to keep my eyes open with no effort and helped prevent me from trying to breathe through my nose. That didn't last long before Dad threatened to take the Facemask back if I didn't continue practicing the "dog paddle."

Just one more story of a hard-headed boy that grew up to be a hard-headed man. I still have moments when I don't pick up on something the first time around or maybe as quickly as others. But now, sometimes I do it on purpose.

Jay Bowen
Past Commander



Don't Wait! Renewal Now!!

As you know, we've begun our 2025 Membership push. Please don't wait until you get 3 or 4 notices before you renew. Help us save money that can be used to support a veteran in need or further our great youth programs.

Contact our Post Adjutant for assistance getting renewed. He can and wants to help!

Be an Early Bird, and get a free dinner in October!

Now, let's "git 'er done!"



Neal Thomas Jr
Memorial Run

22 Sep 2024



**If you missed the run but would still like to support,
you can donate \$20 to the Post Veteran's Assistance
Fund in Memory of Neal!**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Yum, Yum, Eat'em up!! YAY! It's that time again.

Butter Braid Sale October 18th thru November 9th. Requested delivery date is November 20th. Tell your friends, neighbors, and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than November 15th. I will call or email you with the delivery time. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$16.00 per braid. We need the payment before the delivery date. You may call Jackie Bowen, (901) 481-0673 or email jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com, with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment. Watch for reminder/update blasts to be sent. Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success.

FLAVORS: Apple, Blueberry & Cream Cheese, Cinnamon, Strawberry & Cream Cheese, Bavarian Crème Cheese, Raspberry, and Cherry.



3 GUN RAFFLE

American Legion 209 Auxiliary #2024-19157 Benefitting Veterans through American Legion Post 209

Choose your order of preference on your ticket stub

CHOICE #1

- CZ Scorpion 9mm
- Folding stock
- Rear flip ghost ring/front post sights
- 2 magazines
- Cleaning kit and case
- Safety lock



Folded view

CHOICE #2

- G-FORCE GFY-1
12 gauge
- 1 magazine
- 2 chokes w/choke tool
in case
- MBUS flip-up sights



3 chances
per \$20
ticket

CHOICE #3

- Remington 700
30-06
- Camo Stock
- Extra black stock
- Scope rail
- Hard case



Need not be present
to win

Drawing to be held on December 14, 2024 at the American Legion Post 209 Christmas party
@ 5pm at American Legion Post 209, 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs

If winners cannot pass the background check, firearms will remain with American Legion Post 209.



Medicare 101 for Veterans & Spouses

Presented by Chip Underwood of Medicare Mentors & Post 209 Member

Navigating the Medicare space can be confusing, complex, and frustrating, especially for Veterans and their spouses when the VA Healthcare system (including ChampVA) and Tricare for Life are involved. Whether you are or are not a beneficiary of these benefits, please take advantage of one of the three opportunities to sit back and learn about these nuances in a strictly educational setting with an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Light refreshments will be provided.

Subjects to be presented include:

- The Medicare roadmap when approaching age 65 & other eligibility events
- VA and ChampVA Healthcare in partnership with Medicare
- Tricare for Life in partnership with Medicare
- Medicare Advantage & Supplements (not the same thing!)
- How to identify Medicare product advertising/marketing pitfalls
- Answers to the Most Frequently Asked Veterans'/Spouses' Questions
- Q&A

Dates offered (all at Post 209):

- 22 Sep (Sunday), 3-4:30pm/1500-1630 hours
- 20 Oct (Sunday), 1-2:30pm/1300-1430 hours
- 20 Nov (Wednesday) at 6pm/1800-1930 hours

****Sunday event times have been deconflicted with the Broncos games!**

This is an Educational Event, not a sales event; specific information regarding carriers and their products will not be provided in this presentation

***For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings, call
970-236-8570 (TTY: 711)***

Tips for Confronting a Veteran in Crisis!



**ASK A FELLOW VETERAN
CARE FOR A FELLOW VETERAN
EMBRACE A FELLOW VETERAN**

Always ask questions 1 and 2.	Past Month	
1) Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up?	Yellow	
2) Have you actually had any thoughts about killing yourself?	Yellow	
If YES to 2, ask questions 3, 4, 5 and 6. If NO to 2, skip to question 6.		
3) Have you been thinking about how you might do this?	Yellow	
4) Have you had these thoughts and had some intention of acting on them?	High Risk	
5) Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Did you intend to carry out this plan?	High Risk	
Always Ask Question 6	Life-time	Past 3 Months
6) Have you done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life? <i>Examples: Took pills, tried to shoot yourself, cut yourself, tried to hang yourself, took out pills but didn't swallow any, held a gun but changed your mind or it was grabbed from your hand, went to the roof but didn't jump, collected pills, obtained a gun, gave away valuables, wrote a will or suicide note, etc.</i> If yes, was this within the past 3 months?	Yellow	High Risk

If YES to 2 or 3, seek behavioral healthcare for further evaluation. If the answer to 4, 5 or 6 is YES, get **immediate help**: Call or text 988, call 911 or go to the emergency room. **STAY WITH THEM** until they can be evaluated.

Download
Columbia
Protocol
App



Victory Service Dogs



FUNDRAISING DINNER HOSTED BY
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 209

October 25, 2024 at 6pm

Spaghetti, chicken fettuccine alfredo, garlic bread, salad, and dessert

\$15.00

There will also be a 50/50 raffle, silent auction, stuffed puppy adoption pen, and a kissing puppy booth!!

RSVP to jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com by noon Thursday,

October 24, 2024



SENIOR VETERAN APPRECIATION

9AM TO 10AM
EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH

Flagship Health Clinic
3210 N. Academy Blvd. Suite 3
Colorado Springs, CO 80917



55" TV
GIVEAWAY!

*Giveaway every
quarter – attend
monthly for a chance
to win.*



SAL



SAFETY INITIATIVE

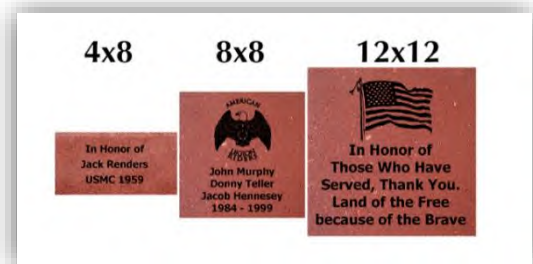
Sons of the American Legion
Squadron 209 will replace and install
smoke detector batteries at no cost for
veterans in financial need or with
physical limitations

Contact SQ 209:
Rob Barry
719-930-5725
colo.rsb@yahoo.com



Walk of Honor

- **What are the costs for the individual bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering desired but typically range from \$75 to \$200, depending on size.
- **What are the costs for the corporate/veteran supporter bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$125 to \$500.
- **What is the difference between individual and corporate bricks?** Individual bricks are for veterans and family members wishing to purchase a brick to honor their veterans. The corporate bricks are for our veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who want to show their continued support for our nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the brick purchase restricted to members of the Post 209 families?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves for their veteran loved ones or to show their support for our veterans.
- **Where do I go to buy a brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit legion209.org and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. In addition, you will see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How do I pay for the brick?** We have the site set up to accept payment via PayPal or check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick, and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where will the brick be shipped?** All bricks will be sent to the post. We will notify you when it arrives, and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- **What will become of my brick?** It will be placed near the flagpole at the post in the area we call the Walk of Honor.
- **How long will this fundraiser effort last?** We plan to continue selling bricks until the Walk of Honor is covered with personalized bricks.
- **Will I have an opportunity to buy a brick later?** Quite possibly, depending on what is decided/approved for the next phase of our project.



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

Celebrate

At
American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

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



Rental Features:

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

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

Starting at
\$350!



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Young Guns



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

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

Scouting Programs

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



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

Boys and Girls State



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

- BOYS STATE www.colegionboysstate.org/
- GIRLS STATE www.alacolorado.org/girls-state

Oratorical Contest



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


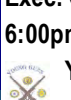























www.colegionoratorical.org

Eagle Scout of the Year



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

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

October 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2  Marksmanship 4:45pm-8:00pm	3  Exec. Cmttee Mtg 6:00pm  Young Guns 6:15pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	4 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm  RSVP Required!	5  Honor Bell Meeting 10:00am
6	7 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	8 Honor Gd. Trng 6:00pm 	9  Marksmanship 4:45pm-8:00pm	10  Young Guns 6:15pm  5-Star & 10 Ideals Program Mtg 5:30pm	11 Price TBD Auxiliary Dinner 6:00pm  RSVP Required!	12  Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00 
13	14 Columbus Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	15 ALR Exec. Mtng ALR 6:30pm.  9a-2p Veteran Homeless Standdown - Weidner Field	16  Marksmanship 4:45pm-8:00pm	17  Young Guns 6:15pm	18 \$15* Early Bird Dinner! Chicken Fried Chicken 6:00pm  RSVP Required!	19
20 Medicare 101 For Veterans & Spouses 1:00pm-2:30pm	21 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	22 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:45pm  	23  Marksmanship 4:45pm-8:00pm	24  Young Guns 6:15pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm	25 \$15/person Victory Service Dog Fundraiser.+ Spaghetti/Fettucine 6:00pm  RSVP Required!	26 Halloween Party! 3:00pm-5:00pm Healing Warriors! 9:00am-1:00pm Vets Helping Vets
27	28 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	29	30  Marksmanship 4:45pm-8:00pm	31 Hallow een  Young Guns 6:15pm	Notes: *The Early Bird dinner is free for members of The Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons who join or renew their 2025 membership by 15 October, 2024. +We will also conduct a Silent Auction at this dinner	

November 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Price Depends on Menu Hamdogger Night! 6:00pm  RSVP Required!	2 Veterans' Day Parade!  Honor Bell Meeting 10:00am
3 Daylight Savings Ends NRA Basic RSO Course 7:30am-5:00pm	4 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	5 Election Day	6  Marksmanship 4:45pm-8:00pm	7 Exec. Cmttee Mtg 6:00pm  Young Guns 6:15pm  Venture Crew 7:00pm 	8 Price TBD ALR Dinner 6:00pm  RSVP Required!	9 Membership Meeting B'fast - 9:00/Mtg - 10:00  
10	11 Veterans Day Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm Happy Veterans' Day!!	12 Honor Gd. Trng  6:00pm	13  Marksmanship 4:45pm-8:00pm	14 Young Guns 6:15pm 	15 \$15/person Chicken Fried Chicken 6:00pm  RSVP Required!	16
17	18 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	19 ALR Exec. Mtng  ALR 6:30pm.	20 Medicare 101 For Veterans & Spouses 6:00pm-7:30pm	21	22 Price TBD JSSP Turkey Shoot! Folling the Dinner ALA Dinner 6:00pm  RSVP Required!	23 Healing Warriors! 9:00am-1:00pm Vets Helping Vets
24	25 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	26 ALR/SAL Monthly Mtng SAL 5:30pm ALR 6:45pm  	27	28 Thanksgiving Day Happy Thanksgiving! 	29	30