

# CENTENNIAL 209 NEWSLETTER



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## Commanders Comments Phillip Larsen

The post is growing and we are getting younger members signed up in Centennial Post 209 just as we had hoped. Now comes the big BUT, those of us who had to suffer all those years without a beautiful Post Home to call our own should know that a Post is only as good as it's members make it out to be! We must shake ourselves out of that frame of mind that tells us we don't have to participate and get to know the other Post members (that is how things were), but come to the various member's events that are planned to get members together and share in the joy of being among the Veteran family. Please make it a point to RSVP to Larry Johnson as early as possible your intention of attending events as they appear on the calendar toward the back of this newsletter. This gives us a chance for planning the number of servings needed for these events, such as the Early Bird Dinner and Initiation Dinner.

This Post was recognized by National and State Departments as an outstanding American Legion facility to support a short-notice nationally sponsored donation drive to support the Afghan outpost that was overrun with devastating losses to units attached to Fort Carson. Because of its location, size and ability to handle the expected outpouring of volunteer support for a drive of this nature, Post 209 will act as the focal point for the Legion Riders and VFW Riders to deploy for purchasing needed equipment at Target Stores (they matched all donations for this drive) and recover to the Post for the Legion, Auxiliary and Fort Carson FRG volunteers to wrap the items for shipment to the troops at their recovery locations. What an honor for our Post and it just falls in line with our 2010 pledge to become more involved in community



## President's Column Jackie Bowen

We have six new members to welcome this month. They are Debbie Loya, Stephenie Moyer, Debbie Harber, Linda Bode, Joyce Horne, and Victoria White. I personally have met most of these ladies and found them all to be very pleasant. I hope the rest of you get to meet them soon. Let's all keep working on growing our membership.

I would like to thank the members that braved the weather and attended the October meeting. It was a horrible day but in spite of it, we had a great breakfast and meeting.

The Butter Braid sale is going pretty good. Delivery will be made on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> to the Post. I will be there to receive them and if anyone wants to come that same day to pick up your order just let me know (Post number is 599-8624). If you can't make it that day, then give me a call (719-574-1223) and I will work with you to coordinate a better schedule for pick up.

The HUD/VASH program is looking for donation items. I consider this program a very worthy effort because they help Veterans find apartments and improve their health and quality of life. Of course money is always welcome, but they need the following items: self-care items, linens, kitchen items, lamps, small area rugs, food, and furniture. Gift cards from Wal-Mart are also welcome. They will pick up whatever you want to give, and your donation is tax deductible. You can contact Roxann Crouse at 719-327-3883 or Corey Robinson at 719-667-5586 for further information.

## Commanders Comments

**Philip Larsen**

(continued)

and military charity events. It makes me so very proud to be a part of our Post 209 family and the American Legion in general.

I regret that I must write to you about the passing from this world into God's arms of Art Criswell, my Assistant Chaplain and I'm proud to say – my friend. I can still picture him telling me about some of his flying exploits but especially his memories of flying into Berlin, Germany during the Berlin Airlift. Having been stationed in Berlin twice during my 26 years in service, I know first-hand what heroes those pilots were in replenishing the West Berliners for their very existence. I remember that he never got the acclaim of the "Candy Bomber" pilot but I just knew that he was so proud of his Call Sign – "The Coal Dust Kid" and that the West Berliners benefitted far more from his cargo than even some of the food shipments that had to be flown into West Berlin. It gets darn cold in Berlin during the long cold winter months. Please keep Art in your prayers and know the wind is blowing sweetly across his face as he's flying in Heaven.

For God and Country, You're Commander  
Phil Larsen



### Monthly Breakfast/Meetings

Normally, our monthly meeting and breakfast are done on the 2nd Saturday of each month unless annotated otherwise in the monthly newsletter.

The breakfast begins at 9:00 am and is a buffet style meal. The cost of the breakfast is \$ 7.00 per person with adjustments depending on children. This is a great opportunity to start the day off right and MOM doesn't have to cook.

What do you get for your \$7.00 is the best breakfast in town. The basic menu consists of:

Eggs, meat, potatoes, sausage gravy, home-made biscuits, toast, assorted jellies, fresh fruit, milk, coffee, choice of juices

However, the cooks and kitchen committee reserve the right to change the menu and surprise you with a selection of different dishes from time to time. Come on down and enjoy.

## Presidents Column

**Jackie Bowen**

(continued)

I would like to remind anyone who will be attending any of the upcoming functions at the Post to RSVP. It is terribly difficult to plan a meal when you don't know how many plan to attend. Those of you that missed Baby Back Rib night missed a delicious dinner. Bob Brietske did a **FANTASTIC** job. Before our dinner, there was a Navy retirement party that had rented the Post. They kept going back for more and I was afraid there wouldn't be enough for us. Bob of course had planned ahead and there was plenty for us all. Please consider attending at least one of the upcoming functions so you can also enjoy the good food and camaraderie. I am certain if you attend one, you'll attend others.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,

Jackie Bowen



### Newsletter Articles

Newsletter articles are due to Larry Johnson at [john8936@msn.com](mailto:john8936@msn.com) or [AmLegion209@base.comcastbiz.net](mailto:AmLegion209@base.comcastbiz.net) by the 15th of each month.

Articles should relate to Veterans Benefits, Legion Programs, or other information useful to our membership. They should be informative and should exceed a column of the newsletter.

The Commander reserves the right to edit news articles.





**Chaplain  
Mario Taracena**

**GLEN OLSON:** Long time member of our post left this earth on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>. He has been a long Colorado Springs resident and served the community extremely well, through several military organizations. He served in the US Army since 1969. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and fellow veterans.

**ART CRISWELL:** our assistant chaplain departed peacefully on Saturday Oct 10<sup>th</sup>. His wife of many years preceded him. Art served in the Air Force and participated in the European theater during WWII and again during the Korean Conflict. We owe Art so much for his sacrifices in the defense of our country.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

May peace and harmony be with you and your family as you celebrate the traditional holiday... Let us ponder and meditate on the events of the men and women who came to this new land enduring hardships, starvation, disease and many struggles. From initial accomplishments emerged the origins of our modern freedoms and democracy.

**WE LIVE IN FREEDOM BECAUSE OF THE VETERANS' COURAGE AND SACRIFICE**

Today there are more than 25 million veterans in the United States. As we pay tribute, remember and honor them on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Countless soldiers have given their lives in passed armed conflicts and wars to preserve our freedom, improve the quality of justice and to choose our religion and how we worship. Veterans have fought so that we can say and say how we feel.

Veterans have returned sick and afflicted so that we can freely travel and choose where we want to live and work.

May we take a few moments this holiday to ponder

and meditate on the heritage and legacy our veterans have given to us. Let us honor them and remember the, those who gave so much to our country.

Thank you veterans and may God bless you and God bless America

If you are sick or going to have an operation or you know of someone undergoing medical procedures let us know so we can send a card or give them a call..

We do care about our members just as we care for our family members. Please notify Mario Taracena at [mst13840@msn.com](mailto:mst13840@msn.com) or call me at 719-495-0363 or the Auxiliary Chaplain Marion Daughtery at 719-637-9555 or the Post at 719-599-8624 and leave a message or by sending a message to [AmLegion209@base.comcastbiz.net](mailto:AmLegion209@base.comcastbiz.net)



**Finance Officer  
Norm Moyer**

As mentioned last month, hat pins are in and going fast. The Post 209 baseball caps are selling for (\$20.00). We have a several copies of the American Legion Emblem Sales Catalogs, if you are interested; e-mail me ([normsvideo@msn.com](mailto:normsvideo@msn.com)) and I will get your order submitted for you and you will be able to pickup at the Post.

We are continually looking for ways to raise money to maintain our new post home and fund the many projects we have ongoing.

The Executive Committee recommended re-establishing our Raffle and Pull Tabs License with the Colorado Secretary of State office. We are looking for individuals to be certified to manage and/or participate in these endeavors.

As mentioned at the General Membership Meeting, we have completed our end of fiscal year verification and our C.P.A. has finalized our IRS report. Timely reporting is an essential activity especially with the acquisition of our Post Home Property during this past year

Furthermore, I am asking for assistance--anyone who has any interest/knowledge of accounting and knowledge of Quick Books Pro would be greatly appreciated.



**Senior Vice Commander  
John "Jay" Bowen**

The second notification from our National Headquarters was mailed out this past month to members world-wide that have not yet renewed their membership. I hope you didn't get one, which means you have already renewed. If you did get one, please consider taking care of the renewal to prevent a third notice. This effort costs a great deal of money that could/should be better focused on helping our Veterans. That's me and you, by the way.

This is Thanksgiving month. This holiday has always been one of my favorites, but it is also somewhat disconcerting. It's among my favorite because it invokes thoughts of delicious food, football, changing weather, football, 4-day weekend, football. Well, I think you get the picture. The part of me that finds this holiday a little disconcerting is wondering why we are expected to chose one day a year to be thankful for the many bountiful blessings we enjoy. I don't care who you are or where you are in this stage of your life, I can almost guarantee you don't have to look far to find several people who would love to swap their pains and problems with you. I'm reminded of what my father (may he rest in peace) used to say, "Boy, do you know how many people would LOVE to have your problems?" Initially, that comment would upset me because I felt he didn't understand what I was dealing with, but later I realized he was just trying to let me know that we all have things we are dealing with on a daily basis, but we should never lose sight of the overall situation, and that things could be much worse. Don't dwell on the problems; instead, be thankful for those things in your life for which you have been truly blessed.

Anyway, I pray for each of you to have a very happy and thankful holiday this month. But I would ask that you don't use just this one day or this one month to give thanks for all that you have been blessed with throughout your life. For me, everyday is Thanksgiving!

See you at the Post soon!

For God and Country,  
Jay Bowen  
Senior Vice Commander



**Initiation of New Members  
Dinner**

Saturday, 14 November is a day to mark on your calendar especially if you have never been initiated into The American Legion.

Even if you have been a member of The American Legion for years but never have been initiated you should make plans to attend this impressive ceremony.

This will be a semi-formal affairs and the initiation will be conducted by the Past Commanders of The Post.

If you are going to attend this ceremony and the activities being planned after the ceremony please send a email to [AmLegion209@base.comcast.net](mailto:AmLegion209@base.comcast.net) or send me a letter or visit the Post and let us know how many will be in your party for the ceremony. This will also us to make sure that everything you think this ceremony should be is.



**Service Officer  
John Brown**

There will be no COLA increase this year, first time in 35 years.

Last year we received a rather large 5.8% COLA raise (the highest since 1983) but this year we will get nothing. Luckily the "Hold Harmless" law prohibits Medicare premiums for Par B from rising in any year there is no Social Security COLA, therefore the vast majority of seniors will be exempt from higher Part B premiums next year.

The Government CBO is now projecting that there may be no COLAs for the next year or two.

Any questions concerning scouting please contact me at 719-331-8160 or email me at [JBIII@aol.com](mailto:JBIII@aol.com)



## Post Officers 2009-2010

## What's Going on in Centennial Post 209

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Phil Larsen	719-591-2417
Sr. Vice Cdr	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Jr. Vice Cdr	Robert Brietske	719-266-8790
Adjutant	Larry Johnson	719-622-0344
Finance Officer	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Chaplain	Mario Taracena	719-495-0363
Sergeant-at-Arms	Robert Rydell	719-634-4203
Historian	Richard Longacre	719-391-8138
Post Executive Committeeman	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Service Officer	John Brown	719-331-8160
Judge Advocate	Charles Zeitvogel	
Past Commander	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088

DATE	ACTIVITY
1 Nov	Begin Food Drive
5 Nov	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30
7 Nov	Veterans Day Parade 7:00 A.m.
11 Nov	Veterans Day Post will be open after Ceremonies at TREA
14 Nov	Adjutant and Service Officer Training 10:00 am to 2:00 PM all invited to attend.
	No Breakfast
	4:00 P.M. General Membership Meeting Initiation Ceremony
	6:30 Prime Rib Dinner \$ 10.00 per person
26 Nov	Thanksgiving Day
3 Dec	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30
12 Dec	NO BREAKFAST or GENERAL MEETING Christmas Party for Post 209 Attitude Adjustment 5:30 P.M. Christmas Party 6:30 P.M.
21 Dec	End of Food Drive and delivery to Food Bank
25 Dec	Christmas Day
31 Dec	New Year's Eve
1 Jan 10	New Year's Day
2 Jan	Post Home is Rented
7 Jan	Post Executive Committee Meeting 6:30
9 Jan	Breakfast 9:00 AM. Post and Auxiliary Meeting 10:00 A.M. Post home OPEN after Meeting
18 Jan	Martin Luther Kings Birthday
29-31 Jan	Department Mid-Year Denver Area

Post Email: AmLegion209@base.comcastbiz.net  
Web Site: www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org

## Auxiliary Officers 2009-2010

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Annie Peterson	719-599-3818
Secretary/Historian	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555
Sergeant-AT-Arms	Jaye Larsen	719-591-2417

## Board of Trustees 2009-2010

Term (Years)	Name	Telephone
President	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Commander	Phil Larsen	719-591-2417
Finance Officer	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Member 2 Yr	Larry Johnson	719-322-0644
Member 2 Yr	Alton Cyriaque	
Member 1 yr	Chuck Zeitvogel	
Member 1 yr	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088

## Items of Interest

The Post home is open Friday Evenings 5:30 to whenever, Saturdays, 1: 00 Pm until whenever, Sundays, 10:00 until whenever

Friday evenings beginning at 6:30 pm is Pinnacle game night or other cards games of your choice.

Sunday afternoon, shuffle board and pool are available for the members. Shuffle board and 9 ball tournaments can be scheduled depending on interest.



## Cub Pack 24 News John Brown

The rain gutter regatta was a fantastic outing for Pack 24. The scouts did a great job on carving and painting their own boats and racing them down the rain gutter. The webelos helped the younger scouts and the boats were decorated in many interesting styles.

Our Pack now has over 40 young boys living the scouting dream. They meet once a week to work on advancement and projects and then meet once a month to receive recognition for their accomplishments. This takes time and effort from the many volunteers supporting the boys. Please support our boys by buying popcorn from them when they ask. This is our number one fund raiser for the scouting community over the year.



### Veterans Day Offering's

#### Golden Corral

Golden Corral 9th Annual Military Appreciation Monday dinner will be conducted on Monday, 16 November from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in all Golden Corral Restaurants nation wide.

#### Applebee's Restaurant

Applebee's four Colorado Springs location will be offering one of six choice meals for those who have or are serving on active duty. Visit Applebee's website to determine what documentation is required.

#### Monkey Shine & Grace for Vet's

Monkey Shine Car Wash located at 7005 Austin Bluffs Parkway will be offering a FREE CAR WASH on Wednesday, 11 November 2009 to ANY veterans or active duty military between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. rain or shine..

We all know that the Holiday Season can be the hardest season for everyone. Many families this year are experiencing hardships due to the present economy and other factors beyond their capability. When you look in the newspapers they are always telling us of a family or a person who is need of help.

In the past Centennial 209 has been a leader in help those who need help during the season. Once again, we have the opportunity to show that we are part of the community and care about people who are in need.

We can help by collecting non-perishable items and bringing them to the Post at 3613 Jeannine Dr or by bringing them to Ragland's Trading Post located at 4739 N. Carefree Circle (Carefree Village Shopping Center). You can drop off items for the food drive between 10:00 am and 7:00pm Monday through Friday's and 9:00 a, to 3:00 P,M, on Saturdays Show your Legion ID card and let "Butch" know you are a Legionnaire when you drop off the canned goods so we can get your name and can recognize your efforts.

We can also help by buying toys and wrapping them and putting their appropriate ages on them and we can distribute them at Christmas to those needy children.

We could visit or send cards to those Veterans in hospitals or Veterans Homes who don't have families.

The idea trying to shine, is that we can make a difference if only we will work together and care.

Don't forget we have until 20 December to make a difference in the community.



## VETERANS DAY CERMONIES

Veterans Day ceremonies will be conducted at The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) building located at 834 Emory Circle, Colorado Springs, Co.

Ceremonies will begin at 11:00 a.m. at TREA and should be completed by 12:30 P.M.

The Pikes Peak Veterans Council invites all interested parties to the activities.



### Post & Auxiliary Fund Raising Activities

We are trying to raise money to support the programs and activities of the Post and Auxiliary for the upcoming year.

You can help us raise the money to do our programs by purchasing or selling "BUTTER BRAIDS".

Time is running out, as the end of sales will be 4 November. The flavors are Bavarian Crème Cheese with Chocolate Icing, Cherry, Apple, Blueberry Cream Cheese, Cinnamon, and Cream Cheese. The loaves are \$10 each and are delicious. For more information or if you would like to place an order please contact Jackie Bowen at 719-574-1223 or [jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com). If we order 100 loaves we get free delivery.

The Butter Braids will be available to be picked up at the Post.

Something to remember, when you purchase the butter braids you get something in return for your money to enjoy.



## From the Adjutant Larry Johnson

The upcoming month from 14 Oct 2009 to 24 November 2009 is a very busy month

Saturday, 24 October is going to be very busy.

First, on the news 3 Oct we heard about the Battle for Camp Keating, Afghanistan in which 8 soldiers from 3/61<sup>st</sup> Cav from Fort Carson were killed and the rest of the personnel lost all of their belongings.

If you go to <http://burnpit.legion.org> you can read about what happened. However, the exciting news is that The American Legion has raised more than \$30,000.00 and that Target is going to provide matching funds to purchase things that are needed.

National has picked Post 209 to be the primary drive in purchasing the required items and package them for shipment to Virginia where they will be transhipped to Afghanistan.

On Saturday, 24 October, members of the American Legion Riders and VFW Riders will be gathering at the Post to depart to local Target stores to purchase the pre-selected items. Members of the Post, Auxiliary and families of the soldiers from the 3/61<sup>st</sup> at Fort Carson will be assembling at Post 209 at 11:00 AM to prepare food for all the volunteers and help to package the items and load them onto vehicles for shipment. If you would like to help please be at the Post Friday night at 6:00 P.M. to receive a briefing on what is going to happen. If you are going on Saturday, help please wear your American Legion Caps, pins, etc. to clarify how much support is being given by the American Legion

This is a great opportunity to help our Veterans and their families, plus get recognition for the American Legion, Post 209 and the American Legion Auxiliary.

That evening, we will be having our Early Bird Dinner for all of the members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and The Sons of The American Legion who have transferred, renewed or joined the Post by 15 October. The cost for non-members if I remember correctly is \$ 7.00 per person. Please call the Post to RSVP for the dinner.