

The Centennial



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Mail: P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80936-5334
Post: 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, Co 80917-8002
Telephone 719-599-8624
Email: centennialtwozeronine@yahoo.com
Website: www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org



From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Gregory Smith

Wow! What an active summer and early fall of events. The Centennial Post 209 has continued to help Veterans and their families in the community. I have got to see so many members and their families get involved and share in the caring of our own.

The American Legion Centennial Post 209 has continued to be available to the community for help, be the voice of Veterans within the Colorado Springs area, share in comradeship, and participate in community functions talking about the four pillars of the American Legion. Our members have been available to help Veterans with food, housing, friendliness, and Veteran benefits. The Post has had members attend the Retiree Appreciation day, All Activities Day, and many others. We have members who are in places to continue these services each and every day. We have communicated amongst ourselves how we will continue these services and help Veterans and their families with the upcoming holiday season. The season is upon us to get involved in the "Saluting America" program. It is another opportunity for us as Veterans to educate our youth in Americanism and Patriotism within our schools. Please let us know what questions you have or how you can get involved today. We have several requests and not enough volunteers. Call one of your officers today; let them know your era and when you are available to help with this program. In talking with others who participated last year, "it was the best time and a joy to see the youth faces."

The American Legion Riders have been able to ride some 24,000 miles since July 1st to help pass the word that they are here to help Veterans and their families. This Post program has developed relationships throughout the community and the surrounding areas. They have been as far north as Franktown, west to Canon City, east to Peyton, and south to Rye. What a tremendous effort by these men and women who ride motorcycles to present veteran ser-



vices and to represent parades and motorcycle safety. The ALR members have an active raffle going on currently. It is a home defense raffle. Talk to an ALR member today and get your tickets. The drawing will be on December 19th, 2014. Buy your tickets now. Several of the ALR members have completed the training and developed a rifle team for the American Legion Centennial Post 209 Color Guard. The ALR participated in the Homeless Veterans Standdown and provided some 12 volunteers to help with activities and needs of the Veterans at the Veterans Stand-down event. The ALR had their end of season gathering to show our comradeship, brotherhood and sisterhood, thanks for all they do in the service to our veterans. Prior to the event, there was another opportunity to pay respect and tribute to our US Flags who have provided service to our Veterans, country, and those that have given the ultimate sacrifice.

The Unit 209 Women's Auxiliary continues to support the American Legion family of events. They were active participants in the All activities day, POW/MIA recognition ride, caring for veterans and their families in need, provide support to the Social events on Fridays at the Centennial Post, and share the voice of the women who supported their veterans and those in the future. In addition, the Centennial Post 209, Unit 209 Women's Auxiliary collaborated on other events to include the Macy's Shopping day, Butter Braid fundraiser, and Homeless Veterans Stand-down. They are actively participating in a Women's Auxiliary drive for membership. Please tell the women of our Veterans; we have a home for them to be active and supportive to all veterans.

The Sons of the American Legion are continuing to grow and be active in the community. Many of these members are active in several programs to include the American Legion Riders, Junior Shooting, and Color Guard. Please take the time to tell them thank you and see how you may help them. The SAL are quite involved in the Child Welfare Foundation.

Continued on page 2...

The Meaning Of The Preamble To The American Legion Constitution

Part 4

This is a good way to end up the year, knowing the entire Preamble. You have done well!

TO SAFEGUARD AND TRANSMIT TO POSTERITY THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

On this ideal of safeguarding and transmitting the principles of justice, freedom and democracy, all of the youth-training programs of The American Legion are built. All Americans can be proud that in our international relations we have tried to live by the golden rule, the mark of justice. We have granted to others, as we prize it ourselves, the great boon of freedom. Through the Monroe Doctrine, we called a halt to foreign imperialism in the western hemisphere. We gave freedom to the Philippines. These principles are part of the American heritage. Legionnaires are pledged to protect and preserve that heritage.

TO CONSECRATE AND SANTIFY OUR COMRADESHIP BY OUR DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS

This is the most important ideal expressed in our preamble. We can hail The American Legion today as an unparalleled force in these United States for social betterment. American Legion concepts and its ideal of devotion to mutual helpfulness warmed the entire social climate of America. Today America is extending its helpful hands all over the world through our assistance programs of foreign aid. This all came about because the veterans of World War I came home enriched with wonderful ties of friendship and gave those ties meaning by consecrating them to the ideal of mutual helpfulness.

Thank you for letting me go over our Preamble. This may give you a better insight into why we say what we do. **FOR GOD AND COUNTRY!**

Lyle Hagelberg
Post Service Officer

Under Construction!

Our Post 209 website is under construction so please bear with us during this time of transition. If you need help, please call the post at (719) 599-8624 or email the adjutant at weaverjrm@comcast.net.

From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

...Continued from the cover

This fund supports the physical, emotional, and spiritual welfare of our youth. Find an SAL member today or take one of our red piggy banks home so you can help achieve our goal.

The Junior Shooting program continues to education our youth on gun safety and the safe handling of a weapon. This program has been busy to include taking our youth to the Colorado Springs Olympic Center to help educate our youth in the program and to get them involved in the advancements of shooting. The attendees got to view the competitive shooting, advanced target systems, and the use of competitive weapons. The experience and excitement from the kids was amazing. We have several youth who are advancing their shooting skills by completing the marksmanship levels. What a great demonstration of the Junior Shooting program. Thank you, to all of our shooting instructors.

What an outstanding group of people who believe in the pillars of the American Legion: Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and youth. Thank you all for your service, volunteerism, caring hearts, and compassion to help veterans. I look forward to my service to you and your families.

Gregory Smith



Centennial Squadron 209 SAL Commander

Rick Kettering

With us just completing the first 3rd of the campaign year for the Child Welfare fund, we have reached a total of \$784.13 as of the end of September. Our goal is \$1200 by the 31st of May 2015. With great thanks I want to recognize where

some recent sizeable donations came from.

Candy Freeman and John Foskey went out on their own and collected \$230.26 for the CWF.

They were both given Certificates of Appreciation

for their efforts for the CWF. The Legion Riders collected \$40.00 at their September meeting, and \$42.25 was collected at the home show on 27-28 September.



So far we have 3 squadron members who have completed the test and are now eligible to receive the first star for Patriotism. Anyone interested or has questions about the Five Star or the Ten Ideals programs please contact me by e-mail @ commandersal209@gmail.com or through the post.



Remember that we have moved our monthly meetings to the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1800 hrs.



Judge Advocate Chuck Zeitvogel

I want to talk about something other than elections and voting this month. But before leaving that subject I believe it is only fair to pay a bit of homage to those who run for public office regardless of party affiliation. Think of the millions of dollars that are needed, think of the public scrutiny, think of the compromises that are probably made, think of the paybacks that would be expected. It takes financially deep pockets and a strong personal constitution to take the criticisms that those on opposing sides heap on one another. How many of us would want to expose ourselves and families to that scrutiny?

Some call it dirty politics! You might have heard the saying, "if you can't take the heat, stay out of the kitchen," but I ask is that what the voters today want – bits of one sided information and unfounded accusations rather than discussion and debate of the real issues. WE have been told The American Legion is non-political and does not take sides or endorse political candidates; however we as individuals can, and most probably should in my opinion.

Let's change gears for a minute and look at the ads for Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year. These ads are for the most part written by skilled folks in advertising and marketing. They are written to create a perceived need in us for the item or items being promoted and placed on sale. Few want to be called scrooges during the holiday season but still a word of caution about shopping during the holidays. Those credit card purchases have a way of catching up with us and causing some real woes when due. I have heard it said that the holiday season is the most stressful time of year for many families. Psychologists can give a lot of reasons but one is that those in marketing cause many to have unrealistic expectations for what is a truly needed versus what is perceived as needed. This may be especially true for young families with small children and parents having a keen desire to give more than they can truly afford. Some have said if one has \$100.00 and owes \$99.00 they will be happy, and if one has \$100.00 and owes \$101.00 they will be unhappy. Simple enough example; be financially happy. How About That!

Warrior Games!

The 2014 Warrior Games were held during the week of September 28th at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. Centennial Post 209 was invited to participate as Volunteer Assistants during the shooting competition on Friday October 3rd. Those attending were Junior Shooting Rifle Instructor Jesse Wade and SAL Adjutant and Rifle Instructor Ken Taylor. Participants from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and SoCom fired a 40 round competition in both Rifle and Pistol to determine the Bronze, Silver and Gold winner in each category. The competition was intense with the crowd cheering their favorites when a great shot was made! An awards ceremony was then held at the end of the day to present medals to the winners. It was a real privilege for our Post members to participate in this great event and support our wounded warriors.





Gobble Gobble!

SECOND ANNUAL TURKEY SHOOT FUNDRAISER

ARE YOU ABLE TO PUT THE TURKEY ON THE TABLE?
COME GIVE IT A TRY AND SUPPORT OUR YOUNG GUNS
JUNIOR SHOOTING PROGRAM

Win your Thanksgiving turkey! You are invited to a Turkey Shoot sponsored by the Young Guns of American Legion Post 209. This event will be held at the Post on steak night, November 21st starting at 1900. There will be three categories, one for youth ages 7 through 12, one for youth ages 13 through 18 and one for adults over age 18. For a \$5 donation, you will get 5 shots from the unsupported standing position from a distance of 25ft. The highest score in each category will win a turkey! Scoring will be governed by the rules spelled out in the American Legion Junior Shooting Guide and any tie will be resolved with a shoot off. You will shoot an air rifle used by the Junior Shooters and the event will be judged and supervised by our NRA Certified Instructors. Be sure to RSVP for that great steak and support our Junior Shooters by participating in our 2nd annual Turkey Shoot!

Please RSVP for the Turkey Shoot by calling Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email adjutantsal209@gmail.com

Turkey Shoot Rules

SAFETY! SAFETY! SAFETY!

Always keep the rifle pointed in a safe direction!

Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot!

Always keep your rifle unloaded until ready to shoot!

Shooting will begin at 1900.

Shooting will be 5 shots from the unsupported standing position.

Shooting distance will be 25 feet.

Shooting will be done with one Air Rifle used by the Young Guns.

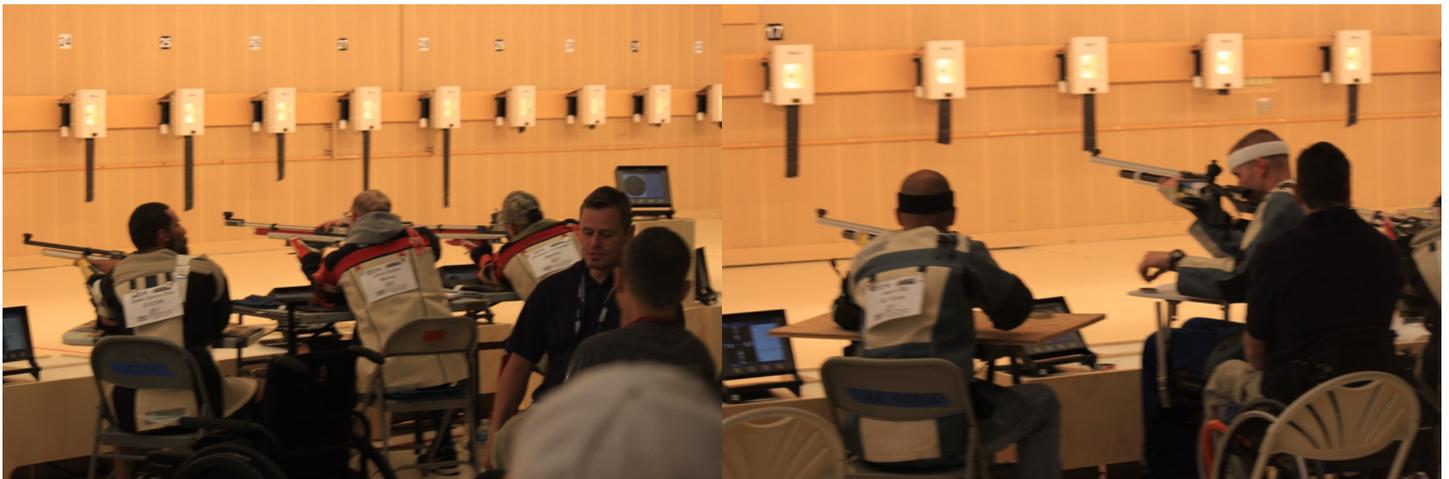
Scoring will be 10 points for each shot in the bulls eye. Each shot outside the bulls eye will reduce your score according to the number hit.

Any tie will be resolved by a shoot off.

The event will be supervised by our NRA Certified Instructors.

Final decision on scoring will be made by our NRA Certified Instructors.

Let's have a SAFE and fun event!



Stand Up and Be Counted on Veterans Day!



SALUTING AMERICA

The American Legion Department of Colorado has joined forces with Saluting America and Colorado elementary, middle and high schools to recognize our Veterans.

The Saluting America School Program, www.salutingamerica.org, empowers teachers to promote patriotism and raise youth awareness of sacrifices made by our nation's active duty military personnel and our Veterans. Using educational tools and suggested projects, educators customize classroom activities that teach young people about sacrifices made to protect our country's freedom. Through selected activities and classroom programs, young Americans learn about patriotism, citizenship, and history.

This year, American Legion Centennial Post 209 and Colorado Springs schools figure prominently in the Veterans Week celebrations and recognition of our area veterans. The Post 209 Honor Guard will be posting colors on November 11 at both Coronado High School and Madison Elementary School. Any of our Post Veterans are more than welcome to attend, **but we would especially love to have our Veterans at the following:**

William J. Palmer High School is planning a reception and two school-wide assemblies on the morning of November 11 to honor American veterans and first responders. They especially would like to invite Veterans from each of the War Periods, from WWII onward, to stand and be recognized. Post 209's very own John Brown will be the featured speaker.

In addition, **Russell Middle School** will honor US Veterans and active duty military with a remembrance and celebration assembly on Friday, November 7. The celebration will begin with a reception at 1:30 pm., followed by an assembly from 2:00 to 3:40 pm. Donations for the Honor Flight Network will be collected at the door.

If you are a member of Post 209, Auxiliary 209, SAL Squadron 209, or Legion Riders 209, OR know of any other Veteran, regardless of affiliation, who would like to attend any of these events, **PLEASE CONTACT Jr. Vice Commander Eric Testorff** via email at: etestorff@icloud.com or via phone at: 719-510-4177. We would like to give the schools a heads-up regarding numbers of visitors.

Remember that the American Legion serves Veterans, National Defense, Americanism and Children & Youth. The Saluting America Schools Program is a great way to reaffirm these pillars, and is an endeavor worthy of your time. Your mere presence with these children raises their thinking and awareness of veterans, patriotism and our history. Come on out. Wear your Legion hats & colors, and be a part of it!



FROM THE ADJUTANT:

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

The Post will be participating in the Veterans Day Parade November 8th again this year. The parade will proceed down Tejon St in downtown Colorado Springs. We will have the same trailer that we have had in past years so if you do not want to walk the parade you can ride on the trailer. If you haven't been to the parade make plans to attend this year, the appreciation given from the community will warm your heart. Since the parade is on the same day that we normally have our General Membership Meeting we will not be having one in November.

The December Membership meeting will not be in the morning as normal, we will be having a Post Christmas Party instead. The Post Christmas Party will be on December 13th and rumor has it that Santa will drop by for a visit. If you are bringing a child to the party we ask that you bring a wrapped gift for Santa to give to them.

We have bins set up at the Post for donations to Toys For Tots. Please bring an unwrapped new toy and place it in the bins. The Marine Corp Reserve is collecting toys to give out to the less fortunate children in our community.

Mid Year and Department Convention Gregory Smith

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Mid year and Department Convention are coming soon. It is a time for all us to gather and show support for the Colorado American Legion. The Mid year is 23-25 January 2015 and the Department Convention is in June 2015. Each of these events will be at the Hotel Elegante.

There are numerous things that need to be done prior to each of these events. There are committees, volunteers, attendees, and contributors needed. I am asking that each of us find the time and skills to help in these events. This is a continuation of our voice for Veterans and their families needs. As an institution of 22,000 members and a Post of over 965 members, we have the tools, talents, and skills to bring together the Posts and Department leadership to educate and make the coming year a better time for our Veterans.

In the coming weeks, there will be several correspondences, identifying the committees and Chairperson needs for these events. I would like to ask that each of us find a committee to join and/or chair for one of the upcoming meetings. If they all fill before you have time, please get with one of your Post officers so that you can volunteer for other duties to include attendee, pre and post service crews, customer services, local directions and assistance coordinator, and many other options.

I praise each of you for what we have done as a Post and what we can do for Veterans in the future. I am thankful for this opportunity to lead and guide this post and hope that each of you can reach deep to help even more veterans in the next several months. If you are unsure, please call or email so that we can talk about what you can do for these events.

Gregory Smith
Commander
Centennial Post 209
gregoryvedd@me.com
520-784-3555

CHAPLAIN NEWS

November 2014

During the month of September I mailed out some sympathy cards. I also made home visits to some of our members and made hospital visits. I had the honor of reading Neal Thomas Jr's. obituary at his last post meeting. I need all of your help to keep me informed about anyone who has passed away or if their service is pending. I would rather hear from many of you than none at all. If there is anyone who you know needs to have consultation, please let me know. I will need their name phone number and what is wrong with them. It would be nice if you contact them before hand and tell them that I plan to call them. From the chaplain part there really is not much to report on.

Here is devotion from Max Lucado:

It is about worshiping God: "Respect the Lord Your God. You must worship Him and make your promise only in His Name. Do not worship other Gods as the people around you do, because the Lord your God is a jealous God. (Deuteronomy: 6: 13-14)

Worship is the thank you that refuses to be silenced. We have tried to make science out of worship. We can't do that. We can't do that anymore than we can sell love or negotiate peace. Worship is a voluntary act of gratitude offered by the saved to God, by the healed to the Healer, and by the delivered to the Deliverer.

Prayer: We remember all that you have done for us Father. We remember your goodness to us in the past. We remember your closeness in the present. We remember your power for the future. We worship you forever. My last three words are: GO TO CHURCH!

Shalom, Pastor Stan

\$8 New to the American Legion Post 209!!!! Pasta Dinner

American Legion Riders' Pasta dinner at 6:00 pm,
the second Friday of the each month. **\$8**



Motorcycle Minute Andrew Gilbert ALR President Post 209

Fall is here. The nights are getting cooler and the rides are becoming fewer. Get ready for the winter. You know that it's coming. As we snuggle up to a warm drink, let us think us what was planned for this colder season. The Vet 4 Vet run helped put \$5200.00 towards giving Vets shelter food, medical, dental, VA services that would not have been there. Our volunteers from Post 209 and other parts of the community spent time Oct 16th to help homeless Vets get what they need for a warm night's sleep.

I wish that all of our homeless Vets could just come back in from the cold and have a normal life. Not all of our Vets want to do this.

The VETERAN'S Stand-down was an incredible success. All I can do is thank all who were involved. Although this is not a motorcycle event, it was incredibly supported by motorcycle activities and our guys were well represented in uniform (vest).

Even though we have supported 2-3 motorcycle events each weekend for the last few months, I want to focus on this Veterans stand-down. This project was much larger than any one organization. This made it incredibly successful. I can't mention all the people involved because I'm bound to forget some.

Bunny Blaha, a coordinator for the Stand-down loved the support given by all local American Legion Posts. We promised 3 people total but we must of had a dozen folks from our Post alone.

With my clipboard in hand I met John and asked a few questions like where did you sleep last night. He said in my bed. He said he had been homeless and had been fighting drug addiction for a long time. He still needed help. He had already received help getting a roof over his head. I felt great knowing that assistance was already started. There were several tables where groups like the VA and Rocky mountain human services were ready to help people get in out of the weather. John had pointed out that they were successful.

He still needed medical assistance and was seeking it at this time. We went from one table to other making sure he got all the services he needed. Phones were being given to anyone who qualified for one. Having one of these phones with 250 minutes free a month allowed our homeless vets to make appointments and receive any communication needed with these organizations.

Toni & Guy hair stylists took great joy in giving haircut to anyone who wanted one. John felt like a million dollars while a pretty young lady cut his hair and fussed over him.

We then had a great lunch prepared by Bill and Jackie Burd. Nothing like a nice hot shepherd pie along with a Jersey Mike's Sub sandwich. We had a great conversation together over lunch. It's amazing how we find out how alike we really are. Circumstances change in life and suddenly you are out in the street and alone. We had common experiences like having the same motorcycles as young men. He and I were very thankful for meeting each other. I believe that being with me allowed him to see where things could be. Spending time with someone who is stable allows a vision of goals to attain. He mentioned that he was not quite there but was well on his way to being stable. I told him to keep up the good work and contact me for updates on his progress. He said he would.

We had all kinds of clothes being given away. It was like being in a store. Everything was set out by size and easy to get. You first received a backpack. You proceeded to fill that pack with every garment and undergarment that was needed. Our active duty army and air force people gave away some artic coats that will keep you warm in the coldest nights. Mountain insulated boots sure looked like they could handle the job as well.

We considered it a success if 1 Vet got all services needed but it seemed that this group of people really wanted all of the Vets off the street and were working hard to do just that. Everyone was fed while there and offered assistance with any further meals that might be needed. Medical and dental services were offered as well as assistance in getting people into the VA system. While it takes time to get shelter together, the funds we donated along with that of others in the community allowed people to stay in motels until they can transition into approved housing.

With basic assistance provided, our Vets still need to get employment and maintain a stable environment for themselves. Once they have their lives back together, they will be dropped off housing assistance. That can then be used for another Veteran to do the same. I'd say this is a great program and needs further support in the future.

I would like to thank all of our riders, Ladies' Auxiliary, Sons of AL for their support. John mentioned multiple times that he was grateful for this experience. He felt comfortable and noticed that every person in the city auditorium genuinely cared for him as an individual. That meant a lot to me also.

Membership Opportunities:

The SERTOMA Gun Show will hold its last gun show for 2014 November 28-30 at the Rustic Hills Mall North, located on Palmer Park and Academy (The old Long's Drug).

Setup will begin at 8:00 am Friday, 28 November. The Gun Show times will be: Friday, 1:00-5:00 pm, Saturday, 9:00- 5:00 pm & Sunday, 9:00-4:00 pm.

Help is needed for the Gun Show especially on Friday. An hour or two would be enough. Entry is free when volunteering. This call is for all Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members, members of Son's of The America Legion or American Legion Riders. For more information please call Larry Johnson at 719-930-0232.

We also have some opportunities in which we can let the Colorado Springs community know more about the American Legion and our programs.

RJ Promotions which owns the Rustic Hills Mall North, has asked the Post 209 Color Guard to present the colors at their upcoming shows and a table will be provided for the Post to hand out information. Here are some upcoming events: The Sugar Plum Food and Gift Shop, December 6-7. The Home & Landscaping Show January 23-25. The RV & Outdoor Show February 6-8. The Sports & Boat Show February 20-22. The Flower & Outdoor Living March 20-22 and the Pet Expo April 25-26. In addition to these events there will be one or two Gun Shows during the time periods listed above. If there is a show that interests you, mark the date on your calendar and contact Larry Johnson, 719-930-0232 to schedule.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

It's getting to be that time of year again. Let's help our Gold Star Mom's with their fundraiser by ordering a wreath, or two or three, to be placed on a soldier's grave at the Logan National Cemetery. You may order online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org and then enter their ID number of CO0006P. They can select only one cemetery and they selected Ft. Logan National Cemetery and that ID is COFLND. The order deadline is November 20th.



Young Guns



The Junior Shooting class is moving into its fifth week of instruction. They have learned that it is ALWAYS safety first! They have fired from the bench rest position and standing position using the Daisy pump air rifles. On Wednesday, October 1st, they were introduced to the new daisy co2 air rifles to learn the prone position. All shooters agreed the new rifles are great! Instruction will continue with the kneeling position on Wednesday October 8th.

The Young Guns graduates are continuing to practice for Winchester/NRA marksmanship awards. Five shooters have qualified for Pro Marksman and Marksman awards. Two of those shooters are now working on Marksman 1st Class!

We are always recruiting for our next class which will begin on February 11th 2015. The class will be held on Wednesday evenings from 1830 to 2030 and will be limited to 12 students. One student has already signed up for the class. The class is open to boys and girls ages 10 through 18. All participants and a parent, guardian or other responsible person will be required to attend all classes. Please contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or email adjutantsal209@gmail.com for more information or to register for the class. The Young Guns would like to thank the Friends of NRA and Sportsmans Warehouse for sponsoring our program. Their help is greatly appreciated!

Bringing a Little South to the West **Immediate Past Post Commander Jay Bowen**

Last month I shared with you my experiences helping my Arkansas grandparents chop cotton as a kid. That was only half the story. If you've ever done this, you know it's not over until you pick the cotton in the Fall. As Paul Harvey would say, "Here's the Rest of the Story."

Regardless of how successful (or in my case unsuccessful) I was chopping cotton, the stuff I failed to rid the field would grow to about 4 feet. The cotton stalks would bloom a pretty red and purple color, and the blooms would eventually fall off as the cotton bolls grew and ripened. As the sun and rain worked its magic, eventually the cotton bolls would open to produce bright white puffs of cotton, swelling inside the bolls in 4 sections. It was actually very pretty to see, and reminded me of a large, white flower. The bolls would break open into 4 sections and the tips of the bolls would fold back just a little in hard, sharp points.

Up until I was about 12 or 13, my cotton sack consisted of a Potato, or "toe" sack. The toe sack had a rope tied to it that slung across my shoulders. When I was old enough for the cotton-filled toe sack to not reach the ground, I graduated to a real cotton sack. This was a thick canvas sack about 7 feet long with a padded shoulder strap. It would drag the ground behind me as I pulled the white gold from their sometimes stingy bolls. If you didn't grab the cotton just right, you would come away with cotton still inside the boll, or a cut or pricked finger or hand from the pointed bolls. This really made for a fun day.

Now, "back in the day," I would get \$0.03/pound for picking cotton. Do you know how much cotton it takes to get a pound? Okay, 16 ounces, but cotton is VERY light and it takes time to gather enough cotton to make any money; even for a teenager. My parents would put me on a single row while they would work 2 rows at a time. They would grab a boll of cotton in each hand. I would hold the boll in one hand while plucking the cotton with the other. They would easily double or triple my production. Anyway, I would fill my cotton sack, or at least get it to a point where it was too hard to drag behind me, then I would head over to the scales where someone (most of the time it was Granddad or Dad) would hang it on the scales and weigh it. I would try to guess how much it would weigh as I dragged it to the scales. I just knew it was going to top off at 150 pounds as they heaved it onto the scale hook. They put the counter-weight on the large hooked, notched arm until the hook straightened horizontally. I can still hear Dad or Granddad yell out, "35 pounds!" What? 35 pounds? That's impossible! I could barely drag the sack. Surely, their scale was broke or their eyes were going bad. No way was that 35 pounds. They would take the sack, throw it up on the trailer, empty it and hand it back so I could trudge back out to the field to do it again. This time a little more rejected. If I was lucky, I would pick about 100 pounds of cotton in a 12 hour day. Mom and Dad would pick close to 500 pounds.

One day I overheard Dad telling a story about growing up and picking cotton as a kid. He would sometimes take his much smaller sister and hide her in his sack when he would go to the scales. Or he would spray water on the cotton because wet cotton weighed more than dry, which is why it was always better to pick in the morning than afternoon. The morning dew would help when you went to the scales if you could pick enough, fast enough, to justify getting it to the scales while still damp. That gave me and my brother a GREAT idea. We took one of Mom's plastic Ivory soap bottle and filled it with water. Then right before we got to the scales, we soaked the outside of the cotton sack. We were brilliant! We picked 35 pounds and it would surely weigh in at 50! I guess our genius plan didn't account for Dad or Granddad being smart enough to feel the wet cotton sack as they lifted it onto the scale. Boy, did that lesson hurt; figuratively and literally. I remember Dad asking why we were trying to cheat our Grandfather. There's never a good answer to that question.

I guess the take-away for me is this; don't cheat family (or anyone else for that matter), and thank God for whoever invented the Cotton Picker!



Post Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Sr. Vice Cdr	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Jr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Stan Hamamoto	719-322-6959
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Rob Johnson	719-421-9201
Post Executive Committeeman		
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610



Auxiliary Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Kari Ann Smith	520-784-3193
Vice President	Theresa Wiederspahn	719-360-1064
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Donna Testorff	719-510-4567
Chaplain	Joan Ciani	719-579-9194
Sergeant-At-Arms	Becky Hall	719-231-0597
Historian	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763



Sons of The American Legion 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Rick Kettering	813-967-6680
1st Vice Commander	Marv Weaver	719-244-3535
Adjutant	Ken Taylor	719-495-8190
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Chaplain	Christopher Keith	719-382-7845
Historian	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2014-2015

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Andy Gilbert	719-231-6696
Vice President	Gregory Smith	520-784-3555
Secretary	John Duenas	719-291-9733
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Road Captain	Mike Barger	719-290-3218



Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events



4 Dec	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
5 Dec	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
7 Dec	Pearl Harbor Day
12 Dec	ALR Pasta Dinner 6:00 pm
13 Dec	CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!! 4:00pm Special Visitor.....
25 Dec	MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!
2 Jan 2015	Hamdogger CANCELLED
8 Jan	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
9 Jan	ALR Pasta Dinner CANCELLED
10 Jan	General Membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am
16 Jan	Steak Night! 6:00 pm **RSVP REQUIRED
22-25 Jan	Mid-Year Conference; Colorado Springs' Elegante Hotel (Volunteers needed)
23 Jan	Fish Fry 6:00 pm **RSVP REQUIRED
27 Jan	ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm (5:30 social)
5 Feb	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
6 Feb	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
13 Feb	ALR Pasta Dinner 6:00 pm
14 Feb	General Membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary meetings 10:00 am
14 Feb	Happy Valentines Day!
20 Feb	Steak Night! 6:00 pm **RSVP REQUIRED
24 Feb	ALR General Membership Meeting (5:30 so-
5 Mar	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm
6 Mar	Hamdogger 6:00 pm
14 Mar	General Membership Breakfast 9:00 am Legion/Auxiliary Meetings 10:00 am
20 Mar	Steak Night! 6:00 pm **RSVP REQUIRED
27 Mar	Fish Fry 6:00 pm **RSVP REQUIRED
2 Apr	Post Exec Mtg 6:30 pm



THE AMERICAN LEGION
CENTENNIAL POST 209
P.O. BOX 25334
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80936-5334

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

~ November 2014 ~						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Young Guns Graduation! 1830 hrs. 	6 Executive Committee Meeting 1830 hrs. 	7 Hammdogger 1800 hrs. 	8 Veterans Day Parade   
9	10	11 Veterans Day 	12	13	14 Pasta Dinner ALR 1800 hrs. RSVP Req'd 	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Steak Night 1800 hrs. RSVP Req'd   	22
23	24	25 ALR Monthly Meeting 1830 hrs. Social 1730 SAL Squadron 209 1800 hr.  	26	27 Thanksgiving 	28	29
30	Notes:					