

The Centennial

VOLUME IX EDITION 11

NOVEMBER 2019



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2019 - 2020 OFFICERS!!

2019-2020 American Legion Post 209 Officers

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

2019-2020 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

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

2019-2020 Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

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

2019-2020 American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

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

2019-2020 Amateur Radio Club Officers

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

For God & Country...



We associate ourselves together...

FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

If you are a new member, a transfer from another Post or renewed your membership, I would like to welcome you and your family to Neal Thomas Jr. Post 209. I want to thank all of you for the outstanding job in working the membership program. As of October 12, 2019, we have 670 members who has renewed their membership, which is about 61% of the Departments membership target goal of 1080 members. Great Job everyone.

This summer has been a very busy time at the Post with a few renovations. I would like to thank the Legionnaire's, Auxiliary, Sons of American Legion, Legion Riders, Young Guns and our new program Amateur Radio Club. The volunteered their time and effort in insuring that their programs are work well. The pass few months has been very exciting watching many of the projects being completed. We were able to reduce the utilities costs, by replacing all the windows in the building, the rewiring of all the lights bulbs from incandescent to LED lights, building a new shed. We were also able reduce our trash disposal cost from \$286.00 to \$39.00 per month. I am very proud of all our Legion families coming together and raising the funds to complete majority of the project. We have the following projects to complete.

The Wall of Honor is in progress thanks to the hard work of Jack Sietz. I will be needing assistance in completing the final stages of the installation of the brick pavers.



On October 9th, we had a special visit from our new National Commander Bill Oxford and his National Aid Larry Cline. Gave them the nickel dime tour of our Post. There were 74 legionnaires and guest participating in special dinner. What a great event

Today October 15, 2019, I had the opportunity to support the Veterans Homeless Coalition stand down located at the city auditorium on Kiowa, we had a great amount of support from Post 209. Auxiliary setup another table, which they distributed water bottles, personal hygiene products, t-shirts, snacks, flashlights and many more. As usual the legion riders performed security around the premises. We will also provide hot meals on the following days, November 3 and November 10 at Hotel Elegante. Let's all come together and assist in helping provide food for these families.

The Honor Guard team needs your help. Currently there has been no stop in doing honors for the veterans and families in the private sector and Pikes Peak National Cemetery. They need volunteers now, they are stretched thin with only few volunteers, who are trying to do the work of many. The more help we can get, the less that each one of us has to work. We can spread the work around and make it easier on each other. As we start to begin our holiday seasons, I wish everyone to have wonderful and safe holiday.



Lino Calica
Post Commander
S.A.L.T. – Serving and Learning Together



THANKSGIVING GREETINGS





FROM THE DESK OF THE SR VICE COMMANDER

The weather is turning, the leaves have fallen, and the holiday season is coming upon us. This means Thanksgiving dinners, Black Friday shopping, and thoughts of how to decorate for the Christmas season. This isn't always the case for everyone though, for some this becomes a time of deep stress and worries of how to pay for this most festive time of year, or for others it's another year alone watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade with a 99 Cent tv dinner.

As we go into the season let us not forget those who maybe don't have enough to give their families the perfect holidays. Reach out to those who you haven't talked to in a while and see how they are doing; it could be the call that saves a life. Visit those who maybe homebound, twenty minutes of your time can make their whole week.

We as Legionnaires are apart of more than just some veterans club, we are a part of a family. We are bonded by service to this great nation, and although most of us are no longer in the military we owe it to our comrades to continue to "watch their six".

For those who may fall into a category in which I earlier described, reach out to me you are not alone. I am willing to do whatever I can to support you in this joyous time of the year.

I want to take a final moment to thank everyone for their service to our country this Veterans Day, I hope to see all of you at the parade downtown on the 2nd. I wish all of my Post 209 family a happy Thanksgiving and look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Joseph A. Schmidt
Post Sr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST FINANCE OFFICER

Well, September has come and gone, and this is the first time as your Finance Officer that I must report we ended up in the red for the month. Like I stated in the September newsletter, had a large sum of checks that were for membership that didn't clear before months end, so that is why I'm reporting to you this month, that we ended up \$682 in the red. Not bad, but it's bound to happen every so often (preferably less often). We're rolling into the month of October with one outstanding check, albeit a small amount, but we do have a large purchase that will be done in the month of October to benefit the Post Honor Guard. Once that purchase has been made, it will be communicated to you all. But, did you know that if everyone was to go to our PayPal account and make a small monthly donation, we would be in the black every month, and have more available to assist our veterans in the community when they come to us looking for assistance. You can even drop it in our donation box next to the coffee bar, if you don't want to use PayPal. Remember, its tax deductible, and I can get you letter if need be if you decide you would like to partake in the venture, of assisting in keeping this Post solvent for many years to come.

Keep in mind also, we now accept credit cards at the Post, so if you would like to pay your dues in person and want to use a card, we will gladly accept it. We also except it for our Friday night meals, if you don't happen to have any cash in your pocket. Bringing the Post into the 21st century isn't all that bad.

We're also keeping an eye on our electrical consumption, so we can get a better idea on what our cost savings will be since we changed out all the lights to LED in the building and in the parking lot and the replacement of all the windows. I will report the findings back to you once we get a few months of readings, to get a better idea. We're also looking for a business that could provide us a great deal on resurfacing our parking lot, so if you know a company or person, please let us know.

Mike Barger
Post Finance Officer



Has God been good to you?



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST CHAPLAIN

Some of you may be wondering why I have written about forgiveness these last three months. Well, our officers have gone through a lot and knowing how to forgive will allow them to move on with their lives. By not being able to forgive, it will keep them in misery, and they will never get over it until they are able to forgive. So that is why I wrote these last three months of forgiveness in my article. As your Chaplain, it is my duty to try to help all of you out in any way that I can. Being faithful and knowing how to do it is something that many of us fail to listen to. Here are a few scriptures for you to think about; Psalms 89: 1– 2: “I will always sing about the Lord’s love; I will tell of his loyalty from now on. I will say, “Your love continues for ever; your loyalty goes on and on like the sky.” Deuteronomy 7:9 says: “So know that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God. HE will keep his agreement of love for a thousand lifetimes for people that love HIM and obey HIS commands.”

We are all created by God and it was His idea. We are all His, His face, His eyes, His hands, His touch, we are all His. Look deeply into the face of every human being on earth, and you will see His likeness. Through some appear to be distant relatives, they are not. God has no cousins, only we His children. And though we may not act like our Father, there is no greater truth than his. We are His. He loves us, undyingly. Nothing can separate us from HIS love. Keeping the faith, I know is not an easy thing to do, but we all must keep trying to do it for we are His and by being His, we need to listen to what He has to say to us. Faith is something that many of us really do not understand. Being faithful to Him and only Him will truly make Him happy. When things do not go right, have faith that He will make things right.

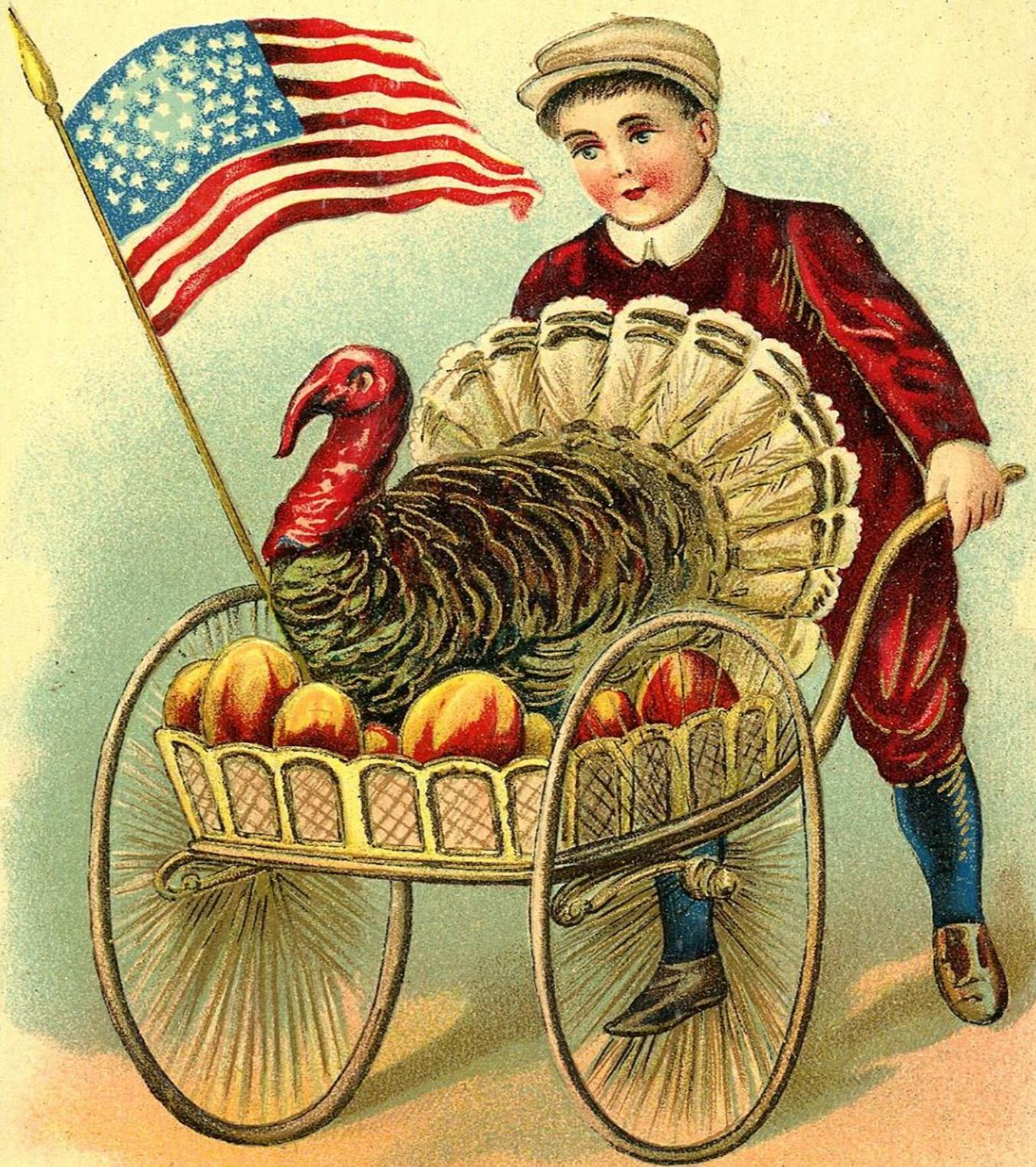
During this month of Thanksgiving, I would like to have all of you, as you sit down at your dinner table to eat the wonderful turkey and all of its fixings, please take the time to pray for the many veterans and their families that do not have what you see in front of you. Pray that they will be able to find something good to eat and find warm shelter. There are many that are not veterans and they are in the same situation as many of our veterans. They all need our prayers and they also need to find warm shelter. We take things for granted when we are able to eat a good meal, not thinking about all of those out there that cannot sit down and eat a good meal. Our country has gone away from helping the many that really need it. So, we as American Legion Members should try to make a big difference in someone’s life. God has given to us many good things and for that we all should be grateful. Being faithful to His love and understanding means that we should share what we have with those that do not have what we have.

In closing I wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy the family and friends as you sit down at your dinner table. God truly has been good to you and your family and let’s not forget it. Share His love with others and they in turn will share it with others also. God Bless you all and again, have a very happy Thanksgiving!!!!

MY LAST THREE WORDS TO ALL OF YOU: GO TO CHURCH!!!

Pastor Stan Hamamoto
Post Chaplain





THANKSGIVING GREETINGS



FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

Early bird cutoff was 10/14/2019, and all membership cards have been mailed. I have mailed the National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford 2020 membership incentive pin certification forms to National. We had 6 members who earned the incentive pin by recruiting 3 or more new members. Congratulations & well done!! I joined the Legion Family at the Stand Down on 10/15/2019. It was a very rewarding experience. Don't forget the Veterans Parade on 11/2/2019. I am looking forward to an outstanding turnout!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving Everyone!

Jerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



FROM COLORADO BOYS STATE

Boys State – 2019: Had 245 applicants in which 184 graduated. Post 209 sponsored 40 of the 184 graduates. We extend big thank you to the 35 staff members.

Below are some comment cards forwarded to us from the Boy State graduates:

For not only my sponsors, but my family and friends at the American Legion:

Your support in the journey to Boys State means everything! Without you, I would not have met some of the most amazing people in Colorado Springs and around Colorado. I built relationships with people outside the norm that I hang out with, and I believe I made something truly lasting. With one such fellow Boys Stater, Matt Bacher, I found out parts of our family (our fathers) actually came from practically the same town in Ohio! Overall, I cannot thank you enough! My journey in Boys State through the American dream, friendship, and the American values of political government has forever shaped my self.

Thank you for your time and effort

Sponsor Post:

Thank you for sponsoring my week at Boys State. This week has been amazing and I have learned a lot. Without your sponsorship, my experience would have not happened or it would have been very different. Boys State has given me tons of memories that will last a lifetime and education that I am sure will help and guide me in the future.

Thanks again,

Dear American Legion

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to attend Boys State. Before attendance, I didn't know exactly what to expect, but the reality was far better than anything I could have hoped for. The boys here were awesome! I grew closer with my city than I did with any other group before in my life. Although my time here was short, it was filled with hard work, positivity, and love, which many people never get the chance to have.

Thank You So Much!

Dear American Legion

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to attend Boys State. Before attendance, I didn't know exactly what to expect, but the reality was far better than anything I could have hoped for. The boys here were awesome! I grew closer with my city than I did with any other group before in my life. Although my time here was short, it was filled with hard work, positivity, and love, which many people never get the chance to have.

Thank You So Much!

Dear sponsor,

Thank you for helping me come to Boys State. I truly appreciate your generosity and it will not go unrecognized. This has been such an amazing experience for me and I have learned a lot. All this new knowledge will not only help me on my last year of high school but in the rest of my life. Thank you again!

Thank you so much for sponsoring me for Boys' State! This has been a life-changing experience. I have learned much more than I thought I would and had the most fun of my life!

The fact that I got to make new friends and be with my peers throughout this learning process has made it all the more memorable. Overall, I was able to learn how government works firsthand. I absolutely have grown in leadership and in teamwork. Thank you for this opportunity.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 209 EXPANDS ITS REACH

Your Post Amateur Radio Club (ARC) in action. Post 209 is now a “pacesetter” – two other Colorado AL Posts (Elizabeth and Salida) have decided to follow our lead and establish Post ARCs.

Post club members are supporting the Boy Scouts - A Radio Merit Badge Day is planned for November, allowing interested Scouts to achieve this award by learning about and even operating an amateur radio station...

The Legion is planning an amateur radio licensing class for Legion members interested in getting involved in this exciting hobby. Details are forthcoming. Our Post Amateur Radio Club continues to seek interest from Post members who would like to participate. Membership meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month at 1900 at the Post. Please come join us and help us make The American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC) the best in the American Legion!

Veterans’ Day Post station operations. The Post ham station will be active on Saturday – 9 Nov from 1200 hrs -- 1800 hrs. We will be operating as an AL post to commemorate this special day. This is an excellent time to visit the Post and see amateur radio in action. Bring your kids or grandkids.

Calendar Events

- **9 November – Veterans Day radio club operations. 1200 to 1800 hrs.**
- **14 November – ARC membership meeting.**

**For more information contact: Club Secretary, Harvey LeCato
Phone: (719) 331-1212 Email: mbca@comcast.net**



Proud possessors of...



a priceless heritage...

FROM THE DESK OF THE SAL COMMANDER

The Sons of the American Legion recently visited the veterans of two Colorado Springs-area nursing centers. On Saturday, October 12th, 2019, the residents and staff at both Mount Saint Francis and Laurel Manor Nursing Centers welcomed SAL Squadron 209.

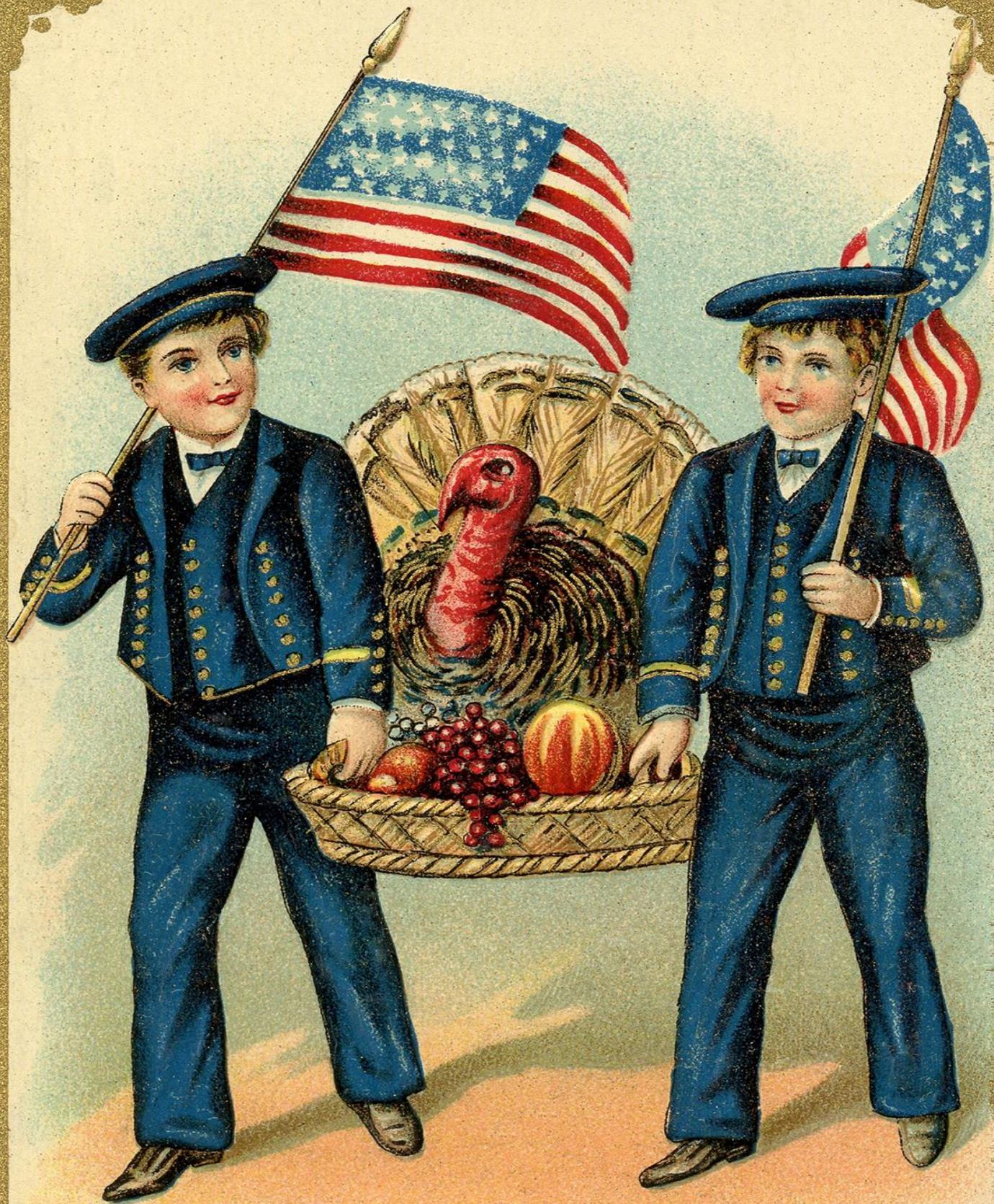
Commander Eric Testorff and crew: Ken Taylor, Nick Spath, Rick Kettering and Brian Wess, provided Certificates of Appreciation to the resident veterans, and held a small "pinning ceremony" featuring the lapel pin of their military service branch. Veterans and SAL members alike then told some funny or interesting military service stories, and shared cookies and juice. Many thanks go out to the residents and staff of these two centers for allowing us into your home for a time of recognition and good fellowship.

Area nursing centers periodically inform SAL 209 of new residents who happen to be military veterans. If you would like to make a future trip with us to one of these facilities, contact Eric Testorff at etestorff@legion209.org.



Eric Testorff
SAL Squadron Commander





THANKSGIVING GREETINGS



In the Spirit of Service and Not Self...

FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT

Thank you, Ladies, for sending in your membership renewals so promptly. We are almost to the halfway mark. Please remember that if you have not renewed by Dec 31st, National will consider you delinquent.

I want to report on the Homeless Veterans Stand-down that held in October, the final numbers for the veterans that came through were 130. On our American Legion Auxiliary 209 Facebook page, you can see the pictures and the KKTU 11 news report on the stand-down.

November will be a busy month once again. November 2nd will be the Veterans Day Parade and the Fall Conference at American Legion Post 5 at 1 p.m. Also, at 7:30 am Nov 2, we will be downtown to decorate the grandstands and stage. If you would like to help with that please let Jackie Bowen know.

I want to thank those ladies that stepped up to help at the Post last month with the dinner for the National Commander Bill Oxford visit to our post. We have a lot happening in the next couple of months, so be sure to read the calendars and call if you have any questions.

Christmas is just around the corner. There will be a blast sent out when it is time to decorate our Post home, so please join us; it's not just for the Auxiliary to do. We usually have Legionnaires, SAL, and ALR there to help. We typically receive many compliments from people that have rented our facilities about how nice the decorations look, and that's thanks to our members that help with this project.

Do not forget you can still purchase the Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 Cookbook for \$15.00 and Christmas Ornament for \$15.00; they are still available for the holidays.

I want to thank everyone that supported the Butter Braid fundraiser. Happy Birthday to Candy Ballew, Mary Bramer, Brenda Cortese, Emilie Cunnington, Cheryle Ehrke, Helen Hunter, Margery Johnson, Hazel Kula, Rose Loewe, Nora Taylor Wendy Wood. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them. Happy Thanksgiving!

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Cathy Barger
Unit President





BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

I guess I was around 13 or 14 when I got my first guitar. For those who read my articles, you've heard me mention my older brother Eddie (a.k.a. Bubba). He's one year older than me and to say we've always been a bit competitive is an understatement. It was thanks to him I got my guitar.

Bubba has always been the musician in the family. He just seemed to have a "knack" when it came to learning the guitar. And back in the day, he was really a pretty good guitar picker. Because he was good and learned to play Dad's favorite song, The Wildwood Flower, Dad bought him an electric guitar.

Well, that's all it took. There was no way Bubba was going to have a guitar and me not get one. It didn't matter that I couldn't tell you the difference between a 6-string and a 12-string guitar, or tell you what a Fret was, Bubba had something I didn't have, and that ain't right. So, I started bugging Dad to buy me a guitar. He told me, "I'll buy you a guitar when you learn to play The Wildwood Flower. That's all? Just learn that one song? No problem.

So I convinced Bubba to teach me the song. He tried to explain how to make a "C" chord and a "G" chord, but I told him I wasn't interested in learning that stuff, I just wanted to learn how to pick the song. As it turned out, I seemed to be able to hear the song in my mind and stumble around on the guitar until I found a note that sounded right. So, I learned how to play Dad's song.

One Friday after he came in from work, I asked him to take a seat and listen. I had Bubba's guitar and fumbled around but was able to pick something that sounded familiar. Dad grinned and told me it sounded pretty good (he was a good liar when he needed to be). The next day, Dad and I headed to downtown Memphis in search of a guitar.

We walked up and down Beale Street and hit a few Pawn Shops in search of my holy grail. Neither of us had any clue what to look for in a guitar. Dad didn't play and all I knew about a guitar was I wanted one. But we found the perfect guitar in about the third Pawn Shop we visited. It was beautiful! It was a Univox, hollow body, 2 pickup electric guitars. It was stained in dark red and brown colors. It had a Vibrato or Tremelo arm that I never really learned how to properly use, but it looked very cool. It had a couple of knobs and switches to turn the volume up and down and to add more bass. It was the coolest thing I owned. Dad didn't buy me an amp because Bubba already had one with the guitar he owned, and Dad said we could share it. I don't think he ever grasped the idea that me and Bubba didn't like to share anything, but that was the deal and we both learned to live with it.

I loved that guitar and couldn't wait to get it home. As soon as I did, Dad told me he wanted to hear his song on my new guitar. So, I plugged into Bubba's amp, turned it on and played him a Masterpiece. Or that's how I remember it anyway.

After I played the song for him, I took my prize possession and put it behind the door in Bubba's and my bedroom. And that's where it stayed for about a year. I never picked it back up during that time because I got what I was after. During that year, Bubba continued to learn how to pick more songs and I just sat and listened. I didn't want to learn to play, I only wanted the guitar because he had one. That's how we did things back then.

Well, after the guitar sat stagnant for all that time Dad came to me one day and said if I wasn't going to learn how to play it, he was going to sell it. He didn't believe in having anything in the house that wasn't functional. I couldn't let that happen. After all, I loved that guitar even if I couldn't tell the difference between a string and a strap. So, I broke down and let Bubba teach me some chords.

What I realized was that I actually enjoyed playing and learning songs. I wasn't interested in learning to pick, I was more into strumming and playing rhythm. The songs back in those days weren't that difficult to learn. If you could play a C, A minor, F, and G, you could do just about any rock song on the radio. And you only needed two or three of those chords to play any country song at that time. I love to sing and must have a pretty good voice because I've had several people tell me after I've played a song for them that they've never really heard it done that way before. So, I

guess I'm pretty good, huh? I assume that's a tribute to both my playing and singing.

After a while, we had Bowen jam sessions. Bubba would pick and I'd accompany him playing rhythm. I learned a few more of Dad's and Mom's favorites, like The Battle of New Orleans, and the Wreck of Old 97. My younger sister, Debbie and Jackie have beautiful voices and they would take the lead on most songs. Even Bubba would join us when we played Daddy Sang Bass. It became a regular thing, even when I came home on leave.

Now that Mom and Dad, and our older sister, Dee have passed we don't jam anymore. I don't really play much these days because I don't have time and I'd rather play guitar with others in a jam session environment than play alone. So, if you're ever in the mood to jam, just give me a call. I think I can still belt out a song or two that will make you say, "Wow, I've never really heard that song done quite that way!" Just try not to be too jealous.

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



YUM, YUM, EAT'EM UP!! BUTTER BRAID SALE

Starting October 18, 2019, we will be doing another Butter Braids sale. Tell your friends, neighbors and your neighbors' friends about the sale. Please turn in orders no later than November 8, 2019. Delivery date is November 13, 2019. I'll send an email or call with delivery time. Make checks payable to ALA Unit 209. The price is \$13.00 per braid and cookie order. You may also order coffee beans. We need the payment before the delivery date.

You may call Jackie Bowen, (719) 574-1223 or email jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com, with an order and then mail a check to her or discuss receipt of payment.

Thanks in advance for helping us make this a success!!

FLAVORS:

- Caramel Rolls (9 rolls)
- Apple
- Blueberry Cream Cheese
- Cinnamon
- Strawberry Cream Cheese
- Bavarian Crème
- Chocolate Chip Cookies (gluten free cookie dough)
- Kona Blend (K-cup) coffee
- Harmony-Medium (12 oz bag of whole beans) coffee



UNCLE
SAM
★ ★ ★



THANKSGIVING GREETINGS.

IN A CHANGING
WORLD, ONE
THING STAYS
THE SAME:

*The Military
Experience.*

IT'S THE BOND

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

"WE WILL NOT FAIL

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

JOIN

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



**THE
AMERICAN
LEGION**

*Neal Thomas Jr.
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Colorado Springs, CO 80917
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www.legion209.org*

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

Remembering those who can't be with us this year...



Happy Thanksgiving

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Hamdogger Dinner 6:00	2 Veterans Day Parade District 7 Fall Conference Post 209
4 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	5 Election Day	6 Marksman 6:30 pm 	7 Executive Meeting 6:30 pm TALARC Meeting 7pm  Young Guns 6:30pm 	8 Family Dinner 6:00pm	9 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am  
11 Veterans Day Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	12	13 Marksman 6:30 pm 	14 Young Guns 6:30pm 	15 Holiday Dinner Turkey Shoot 6pm    	16
18 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm  ALR Exec. Board 6:00pm 	19	20	21	22 Chef's Choice! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!    	23
25 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	26 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 5:45pm  	27	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30

JUST A REMINDER: THERE WILL BE NO FRIDAY DINNERS IN DECEMBER.