

The Centennial



VOLUME 49 EDITION 12

December 2016

Mail: P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80936-5334

Post: 3613 Jeannine Dr., Colorado Springs, Co 80917-8002

Telephone 719-599-8624

Email: centennialtwozeronline@yahoo.com

Website: www.legion209.org



From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Mike Barger



December. A big thank you from myself and the executive board goes out to you all that have stepped up this last month and volunteered their time to the Post.

Let's not forget an important date in our Nation's history. On December 7, 1941, "A Date Which Will Live in Infamy" - the US was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. Did you know that the first typed draft of FDR's war address started off with "a date which will live in world history"? He wanted to strengthen the tone of his words, so he revised the typed draft - marking it up, updating military information, and selecting alternative wordings. On December 8th, at 12:30 pm, FDR addressed a joint session of Congress and the Nation via radio, and asked Congress to declare the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan, meant a state of war has existed between the US and the Japanese empire. Thirty-three minutes after the speech, Congress passed a formal declaration of war against Japan and officially brought the US into World War II. At 4 pm the same day, FDR signed the declaration of war.

With another year coming to an end, let's look back at some of the great things we have done as a Post. To me, the biggest accomplishment was becoming the largest Post in the state. Without everyone's hard work, stepping up and getting new members, we wouldn't have that recognition. It's the moniker that I'd like this Post to keep for many years to come. Next, the Post was officially renamed the Neal Thomas Jr Centennial Post 209. There are those that believe it shouldn't have been renamed at all, or maybe for someone else, but in the end, I believe we did the right thing. With permission from the family, the Riders have begun a yearly Memorial Ride in Neal's honor. The first ride was concluded in September, followed by the Official Renaming, and the Post Everlasting which was long overdue. Next, we were honored to host two National Commanders and National Presidents in one year. To me, that's unprecedented. We also have the honor to have the 2016-17 Department Commander and Department Auxiliary President positions filled by members of this Post. Keep up the good work Jay and Evelyn.

What can I say about the Auxiliary? Behind every great man is a great woman, and that's what we have with our Auxiliary. Without them, I truly believe this Post wouldn't exist. They really stepped up for the Veteran's Stand Down this year. They had so many items to donate to the homeless Vets, we couldn't get rid of it all. And they stepped up and provided 3 meals to the families that were selected for the temporary housing while the Vets worked with the VA, housing and job hunting. Also, they continually support all at the Post, and those in the community that need some assistance.

The Riders were busy promoting the Legion and supporting local Veteran benefit rides, to help those in the community. They do more than just ride, and that was seen by another successful food drive to help those during the holiday season, and providing support for the Veteran's Stand Down, Toys for Tots and Run for the Wall.

SAL continues to support this Post in every way they can, and they support the local youth with the Young Guns. Every time I turn around, they're doing a fund-raiser for the Post, or are out in the community selling the Legion. A couple of events I joined the Sons of was the placing of flags at Memorial Gardens for Memorial Day and delivering Josh Dogs to the hospital.

And let's not forget about our Club Manager Art. If it wasn't for him, we wouldn't have the meals we have on Friday Nights and breakfast on meeting day. He also keeps this Post going by renting this place out to as many folks as we can.

There's many more things I could mention, but I only have the front page of the newsletter. We're an awesome Post, and I'm proud to be the Commander of it.

I'd like to take this time to wish from my family to yours, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing more of you at the Post next year, to continue to make this "The Little Post, Going Places and Doing Big Things".

Reservations and RSVP go to Jackie Bowen (574-1223) jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com



From the Unit 209 President - December

Cathy Barger

The annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Colorado Springs was attended by the American Legion Family of Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209. The weather was overcast, but it didn't dampen the day to honor our Nation's heroes. We had Cadets and Scouts, helping to decorate the grandstands for our Women in the Military past and present heroes. It was a very rewarding day.

I want to thank those volunteers that help with cooking and serving the meals and provided a desserts for the homeless Veterans that were housed at the Clarion Hotel.

Thanks also to all of those that supported the Butter Braid/Rada Cutlery sales. We had another successful fundraiser with your help.

We're still looking for recipes for our Auxiliary Cookbook. Please send in your recipes to Kellie Hayes at hayeskelliej@yahoo.com so we can get this project going.

Happy Birthday to Doris Carrol, Alexia Espinola, Chris Kinnard, Cassandra Marshall Eagen, Sharon Rawson, Carolyn Schubert and Janet Schwarzbart. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR! May everyone have a safe and joyous holiday season and may we come back after the holiday season with the same spirit and desire to help others that need assistance as we have this year.

HO! HO! HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS! Dec 10th, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., we will have our annual Christmas party instead of our monthly meeting. It will be **POT LUCK** event so please be sure to bring something that can feed 2 to 3 more people than what you are bringing for your family. If you are bringing your children or grandchildren ages 1-12 please RSVP for them and bring a wrapped gift with their name for Santa to give the kids. We will have a small gift for each child ages 1-12, from the Legion family. This is the reason we ask you to RSVP for the children you are bringing so that no child gets left out.

If you're planning to attend the Christmas Party, why not bring a extra toy and drop it off for the Toys for Tots program. Help Toys for Tots "bring the joy of Christmas and the hope of a better future to the Nation's less fortunate children" by making a donation today!

Hope to see everyone there.



From the Adjutant

Marvin Weaver, Jr.

I would first like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope you have a safe holiday season and enjoy this time of year with family and friends. The Post will be having the Annual Christmas Party on December 10th. We are expecting to have a special guest in attendance; I hope to see you there. Please RSVP with the age and number of kids that you will be bringing by December 7th so we can have a headcount of kids that will be coming to the Party.

We are doing well with our 2017 membership goal but still need about 250 more members. If you have not renewed yet, please do and if you have a friend or family member who is not a member talk to them about the great things the American Legion and Post 209 does.

We have had another incredible year and I look forward to seeing what we can do in the next year with all of your help. Post 209 reached our internal goal of becoming the largest Post in the Department and that is because of the things that you do in the community and for our fellow Veterans. Thanks for all that you do.

From members Bernard M. Harris, Special Agent, Retired, USAF and William R. Gamble, Colonel, Retired, USAF

Fellow ALP-209 members and families, the Post Executive Board has graciously agreed to allow the owners of the Pikes Peak Strategic Group (PPSG) to donate complete funding and associated backing to establish an Ameriplan Business Consultant Account for Post 209, which will help to ensure the Post never has funding issues again.

The PPSG is a discount healthcare company whose owners are completely tied to the military either by actively serving our great nation or being a military family member. Our goal is two-fold. First, to provide the infrastructure for the Post to reach out to every veteran or citizen that supports our veterans in an effort to introduce the nation's best discount healthcare organization, the AmeriPlan Corporation, via the PPSG. Second, to detail the means for the Post to receive a monthly 40% profit, associated bonuses, and most importantly, to demonstrate how every member can drastically cut their dental, vision, pharmaceutical, and chiropractic monthly fees. Additionally, the post will be given information that will reduce the cost for administrative fees. The PPSG will provide this capability at **no cost** to ALP-209!

Given that healthcare is one of the top five issues facing the entire nation, and that ALP-209 is a non-profit organization, PPSG will donate the funding that will allow the Post to receive all the profits associated with hosting/owning their own discount healthcare franchise. Please note, this is an initiative already in use by the realty industry. More importantly, each of our plans cover an entire household for the monthly membership fee listed.

Members of the PPSG will always, again, always be available to address questions and assist with enrolling members; however, the entire process is completely digitized. The Post will have its own websites, and signing can be completed with complete security! The Post will have three (3) discount memberships to present across the nation, two best plans will cost \$24.95 a month (one-time \$20 registration fee) or \$39.95 a month (one-time \$30 registration fee). All payments are completed via credit or debit cards, and are due on the 3rd or 18th of the month.

Now questions:

Who or what are the AmeriPlan Corporation and the PPSG? The AmeriPlan Corporation is the oldest discount healthcare firm in the nation. The corporate headquarters is located in Plano, TX. AmeriPlan has been in business for over 25 years and has the very best of business credentials: The AmeriPlan Corporation has an A+ rating with the BBB, is a member of the US Chamber of Commerce, is listed with Dun & Bradstreet, has been referenced on national television programs such as CNN and CBS News, is a member of the Direct Selling Association, and is endorsed by the American Medical Review Officer Corporation.

The PPSG, LLC is a locally owned and nationally available company that also has an A+ rating with the BBB, is a tenured member of the Colorado Springs Regional Business Association, a tenured member of the USAFA Association of Graduates-True Blue Business Team, is listed with Dun & Bradstreet, licensed by the State of Colorado, and is recognized by the Small Business Development Center.

How does discount healthcare work? The best analogy is to think of both COSTCO and Sam's! You pay a monthly membership and gain incredible volume discounts for the fee. The same principle applies to discount health care, our providers sign on across the nation and agree to a standardized pricing structure without exception. Each member can get discounts on dental care up to 60-75 percent. Vision savings will allow members to cut costs up to 40-plus percent. The same applies to both chiropractic and pharmacy services.

How do I locate a medical provider? Once the Post Benefit Consultant Account is activated, two options will be available to locate providers. First, the corporate provider website is: www.ameriplanusaprovidersearch.com. Once the Post's websites (2) are activated: Members will be able to access providers across the nation via zip code at: <https://alp209.savewithdiscounthealthcare.com> or <https://alp209.ameriplanopportunity.com>

NOTE: The above two websites are not active yet!!!!

How do I locate a local medical provider? As with the above question, simply visit the provider website, follow the prompts, input your zip code, click on the provider listing you desire and determine which provider you want to utilize.

Can I utilize my current dental, vision, chiropractic or pharmacy provider? Absolutely, if they are in AmeriPlan's network of providers. If they are not listed, ask if they will allow us to present their contact data to AmeriPlan Corporate headquarters. There is no fee associated with them joining the provider team.

Do we pay an additional fee to add more family members? Absolutely not! The membership fee covers an entire household, not just family, but those you allow to live at your residence. Parents, grandparents, and even kids in college.

How does this initiative help the Post and associated veterans programs? This is the second reason for the PPSG proposing this initiative. Our collective goal is to establish a benefit program to help the Post to be consistently profitable, and to allow the Post to initiate new programs that provide a wider range of plans that improve the lives of veterans and their family members. The Post will receive a collective check of \$9.98 a month for each dental membership and \$15.98 a month for each Deluxe-Plus membership. We believe the Post has a membership exceeding 900. If only 100 (continue next page)

From members Bernard M. Harris, Special Agent, Retired, USAF and William R. Gamble, Colonel, Retired, USAF

(cont. from previous page) members initially sign up in the first month this translates to: an automatic corporate bonus of **\$300.00**, a PPSG bonus of **\$100.00**, an AmeriPlan Team Eagle bonus of **\$25.00** and a **\$69.95** bonus for the first five dental memberships **\$349.75!** The other initial 95 memberships will result in a profit of **\$948.10** minus a monthly business membership fee of **\$39.95**, leaving a balance of **\$908.16**. The total for the first 30 days of business for ALP 209 could be, **\$1682.91**.

Now back to monthly reality, the initial 100 members will result in the normal monthly profit of **\$958.05**, which is pure profit. There is another bonus for gaining 50 members in a month!!

Here is a really big question, can you now see what the profits would be if all 900 plus members joined the program?

Well the answer is: **\$8942.05 monthly** or **\$107, 304.60** a year!

I currently have Tricare or Delta Dental insurance for myself and family, why should I change? First and foremost these are large nationally recognized and extremely profitable insurance companies. These "insurance" companies do not cover your entire household, their plans have caps on coverage built in for each family member. Depending upon which service you or a household member needs, one may have to wait 6, 12, or 18 months. **Yes, but I get a free cleaning each year:** News flash, it is not free, the cost is factored into your monthly fee. Also, once you leave active service or retire, your monthly fee will increase, probably double. Retirees with a family of four will pay approximately \$130.00 per month just for dental insurance. Remember, your AmeriPlan monthly membership fee is only \$24.95, and includes discount fees for dental, vision, prescription & chiropractic services.

Why is the PPSG willing to help ALP 209 this way? The answer is simple, we believe in giving back, we believe in teamwork, we believe in God and most importantly, we care for our fellow Veterans and their families, period!

What is needed to get this program going as soon as possible? We need a volunteer person that will be the primary point of contact between the PPSG and ALP209. The reward for being the POC is that the POC gains all the medical benefits free of charge, except for services used. The POC must be ready to learn, ask questions, be available for weekly business and training calls, not be bashful, not be afraid to ask questions, and most importantly, help get the word out to as many people as possible. Members of the PPSG and their SEO stand ready to help on a daily basis.

Ladies and gentlemen this is a total team effort. Our long term goal is for American Legion Post 209 to be so financially successful that other Posts across the nation will want to emulate this incredible program.



Rusty Bower's column to bring a little "salt" to the post.

Origin of NAVY Terminology - December Rusty Bower



Mind Your "Ps" and "Qs"

There are few of us who have not at one time or another been admonished to "mind our Ps and Qs," or in other words, to behave our best. Oddly enough, "mind your Ps and Qs" had nautical beginnings as a method of keeping books on the waterfront.

In the days of sail when sailors were paid a pittance, seaman drank their ale in taverns whose keepers were willing to extend credit until payday. Since many salts were illiterate, keepers kept a talley of pints and quarts consumed by each sailor on a chalkboard behind the bar. Next to each person's name a mark was made under "P" for pint or "Q" for quart whenever a seaman ordered another draught.

On payday, each seaman was liable for each mark next to his name, so he was forced to "mind his Ps and Qs" or get into financial trouble. To ensure an accurate count by unscrupulous keepers, sailors had to keep their wits and remain somewhat sober. Sobriety usually ensured good behavior, hence the meaning of "mind your Ps and Qs."

Neal Thomas, Jr. Centennial Post 209



**DINNER &
COMEDY SHOWCASE SHOW**



WITH
Pam & Otis
RATED "F" for FAMILY



HEADLINER:

The Comedy Magic Of:



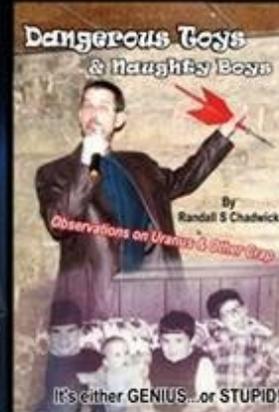
Rodrigo Navarro

Featuring

Funny Douglas



**WITH
Author/Comic**



Randall Chadwick

February 24, 2017

3613 Jeannine Drive
Colorado Springs, CO

www.facebook.com/PuebloPfunny

**Tickets for Members
and their Guests:**

Dinner (6 PM) - \$10

Show (7 PM) - \$10



Junior Shooting Sports Update - December Ken Taylor, Chairman



The fall class for Junior Shooting Sports ended on November 9, 2016. Seven shooters and their families along with the Young Guns Instructors, were in attendance to see the students receive Certificates of Completion, Top Shot Awards, and of course, PIZZA!

The evening began with an address by Post Commander Mike Barger. Commander Barger told the students that the skills they learned here can be used for any type of rifle shooting and will be useful for a lifetime. After the blessing, pizza and soda were enjoyed by all. Before receiving their certificates, the students were questioned about the three basic rules of gun safety. All responded correctly to the three rules; Keep the gun pointed in a safe direction; Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot; and Keep the gun unloaded until ready to shoot. Three Top Shot Awards and Certificates of Completion were then given to the students.



NRA Marksmanship Awards and shooters vests were received by two students from a previous class. They received awards for Pro-Marksman, Marksman, Marksman 1st Class and Sharpshooter. Two adult shooters also received NRA Marksmanship Awards and three position air rifle patches with rockers for Pro-Marksman through Sharpshooter.

The next Junior Shooting class begins on February 8, 2017 at 6:30 PM. We have twelve openings in each class and the February 2017 class already has seven students registered. If you need information or want to register, please contact Ken Taylor at 719-761-4047 or send an email to jssp209@gmail.com.

You can check us out on Face Book where there are pictures and a video. Just go to legion209.org and click on the Young Guns Icon that is on the lower left side of the Home Page.



From Squadron 209 - December Commander Ken Taylor

Memberships expire December 31, 2016. Our goal is 101 members. We are currently at 72. Please renew now to keep your membership current and help us continue our successful programs. The cost is \$20 for those who are 18 and older, or just \$10 for members under 18.

Squadron 209 has had a great year, providing Josh Dogs to both Memorial and St Francis Hospitals. The children going in for procedures are sometimes frightened and Josh brings them a lot of comfort. You can tell by the many smiles we see on their faces! We are having a successful year raising funds for the Child Welfare Foundation. Thanks to the 209 family, we have raised nearly \$1300 of our \$1500 goal for the 2016/2017 year!

The following was written by SAL Historian Eric Testorff, describe our visit to the Veterans at Laurel Manor Care Center on Veterans Day weekend. We see lots of smiles here as well, and the staff tells us our visits are very much appreciated. "Sons of the American Legion Squadron 209 visited Laurel Manor Care Center on 13 November, 2016. The mission was to honor armed forces Veterans for their service to our country. Veteran residents were presented with a Certificate of Recognition by Squadron Commander Ken Taylor. Also presented were American flags in stands created by Bill Burd, lapel pins for the Veteran's branch of service, cookies baked by the SAL spouses and Tribute Cards from our recent Veterans Day events in the schools. Each card was created by a District 11 student, and addressed to a veteran, thanking them for their service. We even met up with Past Post 209 Commander John Kovar. At the end, as we were leaving the building, we were shown a board of honor featuring the resident Veterans as they looked during their service years. Great Americans all." Thanks to Ken Taylor, Rick Kettering, Don Shuck, Christopher Keith, Steve Wolford, Bill Burd, Eric Testorff, and the SAL spouses for making cookies. It was a great day."





From the Jr. Vice Commander - Women in the Military - December

Bob Caddell

Where to start? My mom was a 2-year Air Force Veteran. She joined in the mid 50's and was stationed in Japan. She loved to reminisce about her time and travels. For a mid-west Missouri girl she was never far from the homestead growing up. Then she joined in her mid-twenties and was off to adventure land. Her brother, my uncle was a late WWII Vet; her father was unable to serve due to a hole in his eardrum. Not sure if mom was restless after Uncle Richard came back from the Pacific but she joined up and did her tour. This was just after the hostilities ended in Korea.

Mom loved the Far East and the customs. She learned and tried to teach her children how to use chopsticks, I never was very good with them! She would talk about the troop ship that she and her flight traveled aboard. 15 days at sea nothing but water surrounding you. Witnessing flying fish, whales, flocks of sea gulls, other sea birds, and sea turtles. She loved the sunsets from the troop ship and even got up early to view a sunrise at sea. I guess that's why I joined the Navy instead of the Army or Air Force. You just can't beat the views from a ship. My sister (a Legionnaire) was one of Two Jet engine Mechanics for the Air Force back in 1975. I would add her picture but sometime ago my photo album came up missing. She Joined the Air Force in 1974 with the delayed enlistment and was accepted into mechanics school. Go figure, as she always helped build and ride the mini-bikes that my brother and I would end up bringing home. She was a natural.

My wife was also in the Air Force. She started out as the historian for the flight stationed at Charleston Air Force Base back in 1973. From basic, she was in Airframe maintenance. However, her background in high school was admin so she moved to the historian position.

Her first and only transfer was to Alaska, into a small office where she was an E-3 in charge of the orderly room. She does not like to talk about her time in Alaska because it was not an enjoyable time in her life. Long hours of darkness and being a 20-year-old female in a remote duty station she was subjected to harassment that was not recognized by the officers above her.

Therefore, I have been around females in the Military for a long time. Before I was discharged, the first ship I had been stationed on was converted to accept women at sea. I was first stationed aboard in 1975 and by 1984, the progression had begun for the Navy ships.

Women have always been a part of our Military in some form or fashion. From the Revolutionary War to our newest Army RANGERS who have graduated from the very exclusive Ranger course. We give respect where respect is due and I for one give great respect to our sisters in arms and to their sacrifice, service and the ultimate check that some women have written to uphold and defend the Constitution of these United States.

Salute Ladies...



Merry Christmas to
all from the Officers
of Post 209, Auxil-
iary Unit 209,

Squadron 209, and the Post 209 Riders!





From the Historian - December

Eric Testorff

Early in the battle of Guadalcanal, on the afternoon of 12 November, 1942, a Japanese air group attacked the task force of which the USS San Francisco was a part. During this aerial attack, a damaged torpedo bomber crashed into the San Francisco killing 15 men and wounding 30. After evacuating the wounded and deceased, the San Francisco joined the hunt for the Japanese fleet.

When the time for action came sometime after midnight, the San Francisco opened fire in the pitch-dark night upon an enemy cruiser and destroyer. Fully engaged with the enemy, the San Francisco would soon find herself in the sights of a Japanese battleship, destroyer, and cruiser making her the unwelcome recipient of a trifecta of naval fire.

The San Francisco continued to fight back as the Japanese ships pounded her deck, but the heavy fire took out many of her guns and a direct hit on the navigation bridge killed or severely wounded all of the senior officers to include Admiral Callahan and the ship's Captain Cassin Young.

Meanwhile, below deck damage control officer Lieutenant Commander Herbert Schonland was working feverishly to contain the damage from the 40 plus hits they had taken just above the waterline. The USS San Francisco was taking on water fast and the situation looked grim were it not for Schonland's ingenuity.

After being informed he was the senior officer left alive, Schonland opted to remain below deck to save the ailing ship while leaving the capable Lieutenant Commander Bruce McCandless in charge to navigate. Sloshing through waist deep water in the pitch black, Schonland fought to contain the damage and pump the water.

Realizing that the second deck's pumps were inadequate, Schonland made the genius call to send the water down to the lower decks where the much higher-capacity bilge pumps could get the job done. Instructing the engine room to have the bilge pumps going at full capacity and giving the crew below a heads up that a wall of water was about to come their way, he opened the hatches to the lower decks. Not only did this plan work, but sending the water to the bottom decks actually helped lower the center of gravity, giving the ship greater stability during the effort to save it.

Early that morning, instead of an imminent sinking, the USS San Francisco was able to head out for repairs under her own power. For his actions, Lt. Commander Schonland would be awarded the Medal of Honor and become the poster child for the type of man you wanted on board when your ship was going down.

By the way, Lt. Commander Bruce McCandless, who took command top-side, was none other than the Bruce McCandless for whom the Florence Veterans home is named. Now you know the rest of the story.



Photo # 80-G-40031 Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, USN, (Center)

On board the USS San Francisco Lt. Commander Schonland (left), Admiral Nimitz, and Lt. Commander Bruce McCandless (right)



CUSTOM CNC PLASMA CUTTING AND DESIGN

PRAIRIE METALWORKS, LLC
SHOP: 801 E. 6TH AVE.
MAILING: 401 E. 4TH AVE.
SPRINGFIELD, CO 81073
PHONE: 719-523-3143
E-MAIL: PRAIRIEMETALWORKS@GMAIL.COM

ANDREA KEENAN
OWNER / DESIGNER

Thank You to Our Sponsors!

We are adding something new to *The Centennial* Newsletter. If you know of a business or have one you would like to advertise in our newsletter, get with our Post Adjutant, Marvin Weaver, Jr. He will work with you on pricing and requirements to get your name and business card out there. Advertising in this Newsletter does not mean we recommend the business; we are merely offering sponsors/supporters a venue for advertising.



Motorcycle Minute - December

Andy Gilbert, President

By the time you read this, you will be enjoying the true spirit of Christmas. The Veterans Stand Down will have been completed. You will have given out the Thanksgiving baskets while actually receiving the thanksgiving blessing yourself for the honor of giving to others.

We served 32 people in the Stand Down. These families would be spending nights in the cold if not for the assistance of so many of you. I will never forget the all the meals that were lovingly prepared for families that fell upon hard times. I will be ever so grateful for the love and donation we all gave to our homeless Vets when it was needed. 75 percent of those chosen for the program, succeeded. This means that those who chose to make change in their lives did so. What did success mean? Connect with the VA, choose to sleep in the hotel and eat hot meals daily while working to achieve goals that the THI and themselves set out. Once established with the VA and achieving a job status. They hunted for a home with the assistance of the El Paso Homeless Veterans Coalitions assistance. Things such as transportation and school assistance were put in place for those needed. Furniture was also given to families upon request. I am proud of how we assisted those who truly wanted to be assisted.

When our Post came through and provided three of the nightly meals, I found our people really connecting to everyone in the effort. Sometimes we needed to give encouragement to the homeless and lift up their spirits. Our People really gave them our all.

I was so pleased when I heard about our folks getting jobs, homes, cars and food. A year from now they will be just like everyone else. That's what we live for.

On a positive note (as if that one wasn't enough), one of our long lost Veterans told me his life is truly turned around. He was moving out of a unit where he was alone and moving in with his girl. Big change for someone who could not handle life himself. I pray all goes well for them. He is finally moving out and not being alone.

As many of you know, I will not put my bike away for the winter. I will be thankful for all the blessings that swell from our friendships throughout the year. Take great rest and joy for what's left of the year. You have served your God, Nation and Community well. I am so proud of you all!

God Bless you and may the joy you receive be that from which you gave to others. When we bless others, we are truly blessed ourselves. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



We're Having a Christmas Party!

When? 10 December, 4-6:00pm

Where? Post 209

Details:

No Cost, but this is a Potluck so bring something for everyone in your party plus 2-3 more. If you are bringing kids, we need your RSVP to include the names and ages. Also, if you are bringing a child 12 and younger, bring them a wrapped gift with their name on it so Santa can give it to them.



Bringing a Little South to the West - December

By Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

Christmas invokes so many wonderful child-hood memories. It helps that most of our Christmas family gatherings during those periods were captured on 8mm film. I was glad my sister converted many of those to DVD.

Something interesting about the old 8mm cameras. Even though our later cameras were color, the quality wasn't as good as we have today. I don't know if it was the film or camera, or both, but several of the old Christmas videos have faded a little. The color is still there, but I guess I've gotten spoiled by the high definition we have in today's technology.

Something I have noticed watching those old films is how some things tend to cycle. For example, I had forgotten that my hair was blond when I was very small. In the later years as I went through school my hair turned brown. And now it's returned to its original color of blond...or something that resembles blond. Funny how all that happens, huh?

It was always a Bowen tradition to open Christmas presents on Christmas Eve. This worked out well for most of us kids after we married, because all of our in-laws gathered their family on Christmas Day, so there were never any conflicts with either side of the family. Even today, my siblings all get together on Christmas Eve to eat and exchange gifts. This still works out great for me and Jackie and affords us the opportunity to celebrate Christmas with her side of the family on the 25th.

I remember vividly my Dad during this time of year. He was as bad as the kids on waiting to open presents. Many years, just after lunch he would tell Mom we should open one gift just to get us in the mood. Mom would only mildly protest the request and we would get to pick a gift under the tree to open. But we could only open one. I don't know if this really satisfied our curiosity or made waiting for the gift exchange after dinner and later in the evening worse.

One of my best memories of Christmas Past was as a teenager sitting on the couch with my Father's Mother, Granny. I was about 16 and told her I was having trouble getting into the "Christmas Spirit." She looked at me, smiled and told me that was pretty common as a teen. She said not to worry because the "Spirit" would return strong with the Christmas celebration after we had kids, and it would either stay with us or come back again when we celebrated with our grandkids. Wow, she was spot on! I was like a kid again when my boys were born. Christmas became exciting. Thankfully, I never lost it, but did renew the enthusiasm when my grandsons came along.

It took me years to discover why I felt that way. It was because my focus was on giving, not getting. Now, with my involvement in The American Legion and in the community helping others, that Spirit of Christmas and giving has never waned. Matter of fact, in many ways I feel the Spirit of Christmas year round.

As you prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let me suggest doing something to give to someone else. There are many opportunities to give something to those less fortunate, even if it is just the gift of your time. Quite often, that's all many folks want and it is something both the giver and receiver will treasure and remember for years. If you want ideas on what to do, just contact our Post officers and they will get you involved in some of the Christmas season events they are planning to help our community.

My Christmas wish for everyone reading this is that you get everything you need and most of what you want for Christmas. May God Bless and keep you in His loving arms throughout this holiday season. Merry Christmas from the Bowen family!



Post Officers 2016-2017

| Office | Name | Telephone |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Commander | Mike Barger | 719-290-3218 |
| Sr. Vice Cdr | Lino Calica | 719-963-0956 |
| Jr. Vice Cdr | Bob Caddell | 719-393-5180 |
| Adjutant | Marvin Weaver, Jr. | 719-244-3535 |
| Finance Officer | Rusty Bower | 719-649-0654 |
| Chaplain | Paul R. Darrow | 719-237-4461 |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski | 719-556-8326 |
| Historian | Eric Testorff | 719-510-4177 |
| Post Exec. Cmtee | Gregory Smith | 520-784-3555 |
| Service Officer | Lyle Hagelberg | 719-231-2364 |
| Judge Advocate | Larry Johnson | 719-230-0232 |
| Club Manager | Art Kimbrel | 719-339-4610 |
| Honor Guard Capt. | Jeremy Boltjes | 218-831-0475 |



ALR Officers 2016-2017

| Office | Name | Telephone |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| President | Andy Gilbert | 719-231-6696 |
| Vice President | Mike Barger | 719-290-3218 |
| Secretary | Cathy Barger | 719-290-3163 |
| Treasurer | Rusty Bower | 719-649-0654 |
| Sgt-At-Arms | Lino Calica | 719-963-0956 |
| Road Captain | Grady Mitchell | 719-201-3353 |



Auxiliary Officers 2016-2017

| Office | Name | Telephone |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President | Cathy Barger | 719-290-3163 |
| Vice President | Pat Weaver | 719-638-4763 |
| Secretary | Lynn Thomas | 719-392-1510 |
| Treasurer | Kellie Hayes | 719-494-7167 |
| Chaplain | Jackie Burd | 719-590-6615 |
| Sergeant-At-Arms | Donna Testorff | 719-510-4567 |
| Historian | Donna Rae Smith | 815-973-0073 |



Sons of The American Legion 2016-2017

| Office | Name | Telephone |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Commander | Ken Taylor | 719-761-4047 |
| Sr. Vice Commander | Marv Weaver | 719-244-3535 |
| Jr. Vice Commander | Rick Kettering | 813-967-6680 |
| Adjutant | Steve Wolford | 920-264-4238 |
| Finance Officer | Rusty Bower | 719-649-0654 |
| Sgt-At-Arms | Steve P. Cox | 970-580-8191 |
| Chaplain | Christopher Keith | 719-382-7845 |
| Historian | Eric Testorff | 719-510-4177 |

December 2016

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------|-------------------------------|--|--------|--|
| | | | | 1 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm  | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Potluck! Post Christmas Party! 4:00pm    |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Winter Solstice (Northern) | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Merry Christmas!  | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| January 2017 | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| 1 New Year's Day | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm  | 6 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm  | 7 |
| 8 Suits for Troops! Fundraiser - 2-4:00pm | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  | 14 \$8.50 Breakfast Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am   |
| 15 | 16 Martin Luther King ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Department of Colorado Mid-Year Conference, Denver    | 21 Department of Colorado Mid-Year Conference, Denver    |
| 22 Department of Colorado Mid-Year Conference, Denver    | 23 | 24 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm   | 25 | 26 | 27 \$10.50 Meal Chef Surprise! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!    | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | Notes: Chef's Surprise Menu Varies Month to Month | | | |

| February 2017 | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|-----------|--|---|--|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | 1 | 2 Groundhog Day Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm  | 3 Hamdogger 6:00pm  | 4 |
| 5 Super Bowl | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!  | 11 Membership Meeting Breakfast - 9:00am Meeting - 10:00am   |
| 12 | 13 | 14 Valentine's Day | 15 | 16 | 17 Steak Night - 6:00pm RSVP Required!    | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Presidents Day ALR Executive Board 6:00pm  | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Comedy Show/Dinner! Dinner at 6:00pm Show Starts at 7:00pm (See Flyer) | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 ALR Monthly Meeting 6:30pm. Social 5:30pm SAL 6:00pm   | Notes: | | | |