

The Centennial

VOLUME XII EDITION 12

DECEMBER 2021



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

3613 JEANNINE DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80917
719-599-8624 WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2021 - 2022 OFFICERS!!

American Legion Post 209 Officers

Commander: Joseph Schmidt 651.328.9029	Finance Officer: Joel Haas 719.482.4496	Executive Committeeman: Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610
Sr. Vice Commander: Marvin Weaver Jr. 719.244.3535	Chaplain: Brad Henderson 830.660.4072	Judge Advocate: Marvin Weaver Sr. 719.638.4763
Jr. Vice Commander: Steve Hayes 719.494.7166	Historian: Stacey Ousley 325-704-0510	Finance Officer/Honor Guard Captain: Joel Haas 719.482.4496
Adjutant: Jerry Hopper 918.953.9980	Service Officer: Brian Murphy 719.526.9675	Club Manager: Art Kimbrel 719.339.4610

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

President: Royce Hopper 918.953.9993	VP: Cathy Barger 719.290.3163	Secretary: Pat Weaver 719.638.4763	Chaplain: Mary Bramer 719.633.8612
Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	Historian: Valerie Stephens 330.510.0411	Sgt At Arms: Charyse Schmidt 651.558.6968	Exec. at Large: Jackie Bowen 901.481.0673

Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

Commander: Brian Wess 719.528.6672	Adjutant: Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	Sgt At Arms: Bob Ingram 480.353.8234	Chaplain: Brad Henderson 830.660.4072
Sr. Vice Commander: Brian Wess 719.528.6672	Jr. Vice Commander: Vacant	Finance Officer: Ken Taylor 719.461.4047	

American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

President: Ed Santos	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes 719.494.7167	VP: Drew Pearson 719.329.4357	Road Captain: Tom Foster	Historian: Scott Laudan
Secretary: Mike Sylvester	Sgt At Arms:	Communications: Monk Baylis	Logistics:	

Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: George Johnson KE0ALQ 910.494.9768	Vice President: Vacant	Trustee: Harvey LeCato W1JU
Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU	Treasurer: Henry Russell KC0NAJ	



FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

I recently had the great honor to represent the Department of Colorado at National American Legion College at the National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. Over this week I had the opportunity to not only learn more about The American Legion but see the organization in a new light. In all the moments throughout the week walking into the National Executive Committee (NEC) Room, where history such as the G.I. Bill of rights, the creation of the legacy scholarship fund or support for burn pit victims was passed. I had the opportunity to read a resolution of my own, one out of twenty-seven that will now be considered by the NEC. Below is the resolution.



NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION November 13-19, 2021 Indianapolis, Indiana

Resolution No. D1-001-2020 Creation of the Afghanistan War Remembrance Day
Origin: National American Legion College Class of 2020
Submitted by: District 1, National American Legion College Class of 2020

WHEREAS, The American Legion preamble states, "To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in all wars"; and

WHEREAS, On October 7, 2001, the United States began operations in Afghanistan responding to the al-Qaida orchestrated September 11 terrorist attacks; and

WHEREAS, Operation Enduring Freedom continued from October 7, 2001, to December 31, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Operation Freedom's Sentinel followed Operation Enduring Freedom and continued from January 1, 2015, to August 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the course of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel, 2,022 U.S. servicemembers were killed in action, 534 died from non-hostile actions, and 20,761 were wounded in action; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the course of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel four U.S. DoD civilians were killed in action, and two died from non-hostile actions; and

WHEREAS, 1,822 civilian contractors were killed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel; and

WHEREAS, Those numbers include all servicemembers, DoD civilians, and civilian contractors serving in theaters in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Freedom's Sentinel; and

WHEREAS, The last U.S. servicemember departed the Afghanistan theater on August 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, National Vietnam War Veterans Day is a national observance commemorated every year on March 29 as a day to honor the servicemembers who served in the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, Each year, the President of the United States issues a proclamation designating July 27 as a day of national observance in honor of National Korean War Armistice Day; now therefore; be it

RESOLVED, By District 1, National American Legion College Class of 2020 of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, November 13-19, 2021, That The American Legion strongly urges Congress to recognize August 30 of each year as the official end of the war in Afghanistan, by proclaiming this date as “Afghanistan War Remembrance Day” as an official national observance of The United States.

This resolution is a small thank you and dedication to all my sisters and brothers who have sacrificed so much, up to their lives.

Lastly This month, as you gather with family and friends, Charyse and I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays. For many of our nation’s military families, the holidays are a merry time, a time to reunite, but for families who are apart, this time of year is especially hard, and it’s a reminder that our troops aren’t the only ones who serve and sacrifice. Their families do too. We as an American Legion Family are here, for everyone, the active duty servicemember, veterans, and their families. We all look forward in seeing you in the next year!

Joseph Schmidt

Post Commander



Celebrate

At
American Legion
Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209

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



Rental Features:

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

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



For More Information

www.legion209.org/contact_us

(719) 599-8624

3613 Jeannine Drive Colorado Springs, CO 80917

*Additional cost may apply

FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

As winter approaches and Thanksgiving is just around the corner, I want to wish each of you health and good tidings. By the time this is being read by all, Thanksgiving will be a memory. In the next month it will be the time to reflect on things past, people to forgive and the future to plan. Our Post Christmas dinner is scheduled for December 11. Although, there is not much scheduled at the Post, the mail will still be delivered and I wish to find renewal payments clogging the mail box. Please remember your membership becomes delinquent on January 1, 2022. I want to meet every one of you. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jerry Hopper
Post Adjutant



FROM THE DESK OF THE SR. VICE COMMANDER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Post and family members. Take this time that the Post will be closed to spend with your family and friends. Don't forget to come out to the Post for our annual Post Christmas Party on December 11th. The party will be pot luck and rumor has it we will have a special guest in attendance.

Membership is going well so far this year but we have more to do. We are currently just over 700 members and need to reach 1,060. If you have not renewed yet please send in your renewal today. You can pay online at Legion209.org or you can bring it by the Post and if Jerry is there he will give you your new membership card before you leave. If you have a friend, neighbor, or family member, a great Christmas present could be membership in the American Legion. You know why you joined and all the benefits you get from being a member, along with representation in Congress, so why not pass that along as a gift to someone you know.

Thanks for all you do to help out Veterans and our community. I hope you and your family have a great Christmas and holiday season.

Marvin Weaver, Jr.
Sr. Vice Commander



FROM THE DESK OF THE JR. VICE COMMANDER

During our December meeting, we went over winter safety preparations and responses for your home and auto. Reach out with your email address if you would like a copy of the materials provided at the meeting. There is no meeting for December, so no training/presentation is scheduled. We are still finalizing the speaker for the January 8 meeting. On February 12th, McConnell Bristol will speak at the membership meeting on Boys State and Boys Nation. Post 209 sponsored McConnell to attend Boys State and he was elected as one of the two delegates to Boy's Nation out of his session. I hope you all have the best of holiday seasons and we look forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Steve Hayes
Jr. Vice Commander



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

HAPPY CHANUKAH!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

**WHATEVER YOUR BELIEF OR
PRACTICE THIS TIME OF
YEAR, THE LEADERSHIP OF
NEAL THOMAS JR.-
CENTENNIAL POST 209
WANT TO WISH YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY A SAFE AND
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!**

FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT



I hope everyone is enjoying their holiday season so far. As much as I enjoy celebrating all of the Holidays, I must confess that Christmas has always been my all-time favorite. As we start rolling through the days, counting down to Christmas, I remember all of the things that became a family tradition. My parents did not have a lot, so we could always expect a home-made gift of pajamas or something under the tree for each of us. They always gave us each a big, thick pad full of puzzles, games, and pages to color with a little box of crayons. Christmas Eve was a night of games and junk food. We got together to exchange gifts and help with cooking for the next day. Because we are a large family, it was easier to do the gift exchange on Christmas Eve because Christmas Day was for cooking, eating, and visiting. Christmas Day was when we opened our house up to family, friends, and anyone who needed a place to go for Christmas. It was a great family tradition and a way to share with others even if we did not really have anything ourselves. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas full of family and friends.

Happy birthday to the following December birthdays: Katie Jackson, Kaylene Khosla, Sharon Rawson, Melia Paloroa.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Royce Hopper
Unit President



FROM THE DESK OF OUR FINANCE OFFICER

It is amazing how quickly this year has gone by. The Post has seen the effects of COVID diminish (but not gone) with an increase in membership participation at dinners, meetings, and Post events. As we enter the Holiday Season, I want to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable end to the year.

Through the end of the year, I will be taking the last year's worth of data to build a budget for presentation to the Post Executive Committee at the January, 2022 meeting. This first budget will encompass the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. From there, an annual budget for the fiscal year can be created for each new Post Executive Committee to approve at the first meeting held in July. If we are able to plan for expenses, that makes surprises easier to handle as we will always have a reserve budgeted in for *emergencies*. The budget will also aid the Post Executive Committee in determining what new initiatives the Post can explore during the fiscal year based on available funding.

And for my normal closing statement, the Post needs your help in identifying new fundraising ideas. We are still working to get back to pre-COVID status in order to keep supporting OUR Veterans in the community. Any fundraising idea – big, small, unconventional (think about the impact of Kellie's Stick Pony Race) – is worth consideration to help us get there.

Joel Haas
Finance Officer





Trivia Night!



Do you want a chance for a free dinner? Or maybe a free beverage?

Do you know what is the longest river in the world?

Do you know what is the largest river in North America?

How about Roy Rogers real name?

What is the President of the United States' address?

If you know the answers to the above and other questions similar to these, or if you fancy yourself a trivia wizard, join us on **Friday, 14 January, 2022 for our Trivia Night event. **We cancelled the December dinners, so Trivia Night will not be played in December.****

The fun will start following dinner that night, around 7:00pm. You must be at the Post for the beginning of the contest; late arrivals will not be allowed to play.

This will be a team event; teams can be as small as one person or up to four (4) can play on a team.

Cost to compete is \$5.00 per person.

Even if you don't want to play, come on out and watch the fun! But you should consider competing in the contest. You never know, your dinner that night might be free!

THE AMERICAN LEGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (TALARC)

Devoted to the Hobby and Art of Amateur Radio and
Promoting the American Legion

What is Ham Radio?

Amateur Radio (ham radio) is a popular **hobby and service** that **brings people, electronics and communication together**.

People use ham radio to **talk across town, around the world**, or even into space, all without the Internet or cell phones.

It's a great hobby that's **fun, social, educational, and can be a lifeline during times of need**.



Want more information?

Call, email or text me.

73 (Best regards) – Harvey W 1 J U 331-1212 mbca@comcast.net



FROM OUR HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN

The Honor Guard team led The American Legion Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 entry in the Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 6 by carrying the Legion Family Flags. The Honor Guard members' dedication, practice, and teamwork produced outstanding results during the roughly mile-long event. The Veterans Day Parade is one of the few events that we look forward to supporting, a fun and enjoyable time for everyone (once it warms up a bit).

The Honor Guard will be supporting the Wreaths Across America event at Memorial Gardens on Saturday, December 18. In addition to needing to fill the team's 12 positions for the event, support is needed with the Service Wreath Presentations. At this time, we are still looking for an Active Duty/Reserve/National Guard member from the Army, Marines, Navy, Space Force, and Coast Guard. If we are unable to get an active service member, then we are requesting any Veteran who can still fit into their service uniform that would like to help support the event.

If you, or someone you know, have a request for the Honor Guard to support an event, please contact the Honor Guard Coordinator. The Honor Guard Coordinator, Valerie Stephens, can be reached through any one of the following:

Cell Phone: (330) 510-0411

Personal Email: valerie.al209honorguard@gmail.com

Legion209 Email: honor.guard@legion209.org

As seen in previous articles (and can expect to see in each article in the future), while not everyone has a lot of time to participate in the Honor Guard, all someone needs is the time to participate a night or two for training meetings (2nd & 3rd Tuesday of every month) and even just one event a month. A meeting or two and one event a month is only 3-5 hours. Those 3-5 hours makes a difference for a Veteran and their family. Those 3-5 hours a month can also make a difference for you! If another 10 to 15 members of the Legion, Sons, or Auxiliary *gave back* with 3-5 hours a month, the Honor Guard could possibly not have to keep turning down requests. If you do not remember/know how to march or fold the flag, we will teach you. The only two items that a new Honor Guard member needs to get on their own is a Legion cap (or SAL/ALA as applicable) and shoes (multiple options available). All other uniforms items that you need are provided by the Honor Guard. You do not have 3-5 hours a month? That is okay, you can still help the Honor Guard by telling others in the Legion, Sons, or Auxiliary (Post 209 or other Posts in the area) about

what the Honor Guard does and the importance of growing in order to meet the increase of requests to support OUR Veterans. If you or anyone you know might be interested in supporting the Honor Guard, please reach out to me at: (719) 482-4496 or honor.guard@legion209.org.

Joel Haas
Honor Guard Captain



FROM OUR POST CHAPLAIN

“The Ten Dollar Challenge”

Once upon a time, a teacher at a private, Christian school gave each of his students a \$10 bill and a challenge: They were to use that money to make someone’s life better.

“You’re giving away your money?”

“It’s not my money. It never was. This is God’s money.”

Students could use their ten-dollar bill, pool their resources with a friend, ask for matching donations from family, etc.

The catch: Two weeks later, they were to write God a letter, telling Him how they had used His money. You would be AMAZED at what God can do with a \$10 bill!

One lad purchased food for the local animal shelter.

Ten dollars purchased a pair of gloves and matching scarf for a lady in a nursing home.

One student bought children’s story books and donated them to the school library.

Ten dollars were tripled by a family donation and went for canned goods for the local food bank.

Two students pooled their resources and bought toys for a needy family.

Another purchased a meal for a homeless person.

Mike, always well-groomed, purchased a jar of styling gel. Huh?

“Hey – poor kids want to look good, too!” (Can’t argue with that!)

Linda purchased slippers for a lady in a nursing home and spent her birthday money on a matching gown and robe.

The stories are endless.

Once a soldier, always a soldier.

Once a teacher, always a teacher.

Here is your “Ten Dollar Challenge”:

Twelve months of service opportunity await us. We have time, and we have talents.

How can you as an individual make someone’s life better?

What can Neal Thomas, Jr. Centennial Post 209 do to make someone’s life better?

What can we, as a Legion Family do together to make someone’s life better?

It could be “one of our own.” It could be a church friend.

It could be someone or a group that we don’t even know; but who has a need that we know.

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

Brad Henderson
Chaplain





AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



WALK OF HONOR

Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

We are re-introducing an exciting fundraiser for our Post. We are partnering with Polar Engraving to offer our members, family, friends, and our corporate Veteran-friendly supporters an opportunity to purchase an engraved brick to adorn our landscaping project we are working. The engraving uses the same technology as used on tombstones so it's extremely durable. Here are some FAQs:



- **What Are We Having?** A Brick Fundraising Event
- **Why?** To Further Funding of our American Legion Programs
- **What Size Are the Bricks?** 4"x 8" or 8"x 8" bricks for individuals, and 8"x 8" or 12"x 12" bricks for our corporate supporters.
- **What are the Costs for the Individual Bricks?** Prices vary depending on size, style and lettering desired, but typically range from \$90 to \$200. For the 8x8 or 12x12 bricks, you can add a second emblem. Contact the Adjutant for ordering details. There is **NO** additional cost for the second emblem on the larger bricks.
- **What are the Costs for the Corporate/Veteran Supporter Bricks?** Again, prices vary depending on size, style, and lettering but typically range from \$250 to \$500.
- **What is the Difference between Individual and Corporate Bricks?** Individual bricks are identified for Veterans, and family members of Veterans wishing to purchase a brick to honor their Veteran. The corporate bricks are for our Veteran-friendly supporters and businesses who wish to show their continued support to our Nation's heroes by purchasing a brick.
- **Is the Brick Purchase Restricted to Members of the Post 209 Family?** No. We encourage members to buy a brick for themselves as a lasting memory of their association with Post 209. We also welcome anyone to purchase a brick for their Veteran loved one, or to show their support to our Veterans.
- **Can I Buy a 12"x 12" Brick for Myself/Loved One?** Absolutely!
- **Where Do I Go to Buy a Brick?** We have a link on our website. Just visit legion209.org and click on "Walk of Honor." Or, you can visit <http://polarengraving.com/ALPost209> to buy your brick. The site is very user-friendly and will walk you through the design and purchase. You will be able to see a preview of your brick before finalizing the purchase.
- **How Do I Pay For the Brick?** We have the site setup to accept payment via PayPal or by check. PayPal is an extremely safe way to purchase a brick and you don't need a PayPal account to use it.
- **Where Will the Brick Be Shipped?** All bricks will be shipped to the Post. We will notify you when it arrives and you are welcome to stop by and see the brick you have purchased.
- **What Will Become of My Brick?** It will be placed near the Flagpole at the Post and will be part of the landscaping design we are working. If you are a landscaper or know a good one (preferably a Veteran), have them contact our Adjutant.
- **How Long Will this Fundraiser Effort Last?** We plan to only sell as many bricks as needed for the first phase of the landscaping project. Currently, that is anticipated to be 600 bricks, but that number may change depending on brick sizes purchased and the final design approved by the Post.
- **Will I Have an Opportunity to Buy a Brick Later?** Quite possibly. It depends on what is decided/approved for the next phase of our project.

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



BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

I believe every generation experienced a national or world event so impactful, they knew where they were and what they were doing when it occurred. For example, if I could ask my grandfather, he would likely tell me it was the sinking of the ocean liner RMS Lusitania by a German U-Boat, which catapulted us into the “War to End All Wars!” and he would probably also tell me it was the bombing of Pearl Harbor. I have to believe for my Dad, there may have been a few. The first probably was 7 December, 1941, “...a date which will live in infamy...” an event that resulted in both he and his father joining the US Army and serving during WWII, the second war to end all wars, and maybe when man first stepped foot on the moon. Then there was the assassination of President, Kennedy, and his last life-changing event had to have been 9/11.

Interestingly for me, those life-changing events I just mentioned for my Dad I can also claim, with the exception of the Pearl Harbor attack. Now don't misunderstand. I'm not ignoring my wedding day, nor the birth of our two sons or our grandkids. Those were obviously very special and life-changing, but this is not what I'm talking about. The one event that was probably most profound to me was the Kennedy assassination. I still have vivid memories of that day. I was attending a Memphis City School and my teacher was a proud Texan. When the news came over the intercom, she broke down and cried like a baby. I don't know which upset me more, a teacher crying in front of her students, something I'd not seen before nor since, or the assassination of a sitting US President.

Looking back at those previous generations, I am in awe of how Americans responded to those events. History has shown that Americans did not shy away or run and hide and “hunker down” (Southern term) and wait for the badness to go away. Instead, they joined together to respond head-on to each one.

There are many of us who can remember the events I recounted, and you may have some others I didn't mention that were life-changing for you. Those events could be either/both good and bad. Which you can recall and how it affected you and those around you are very personal to each of us.

I'm guessing many of you would add the COVID-19 pandemic to the list. I guess it was first discovered in December, 2019 in Wuhan, China. I don't know the exact date it made its way to the US, theories abound. And there are some out there who don't believe it even exists. They believe it is a government hoax. Regardless which camp you fall into regarding COVID, most of us agree it changed how we go about our daily lives.

We've read and seen how history recorded our reaction to the events I mentioned and the others from previous generations. So, what will history write about us and how we reacted/responded to the latest life-changing event? Will it read that we locked ourselves in our house/prison to wait out the pandemic, or will it say we pulled together, adapted and overcame?

I submit to you that it needs to say we stepped up. We didn't let this disease or anything else keep us from living. Sure, we've had to change how we do some things. We were and are still required to “mask up” in some places. We get vaccinations, or we don't. But whatever we are doing, we are doing it differently than we did 3 or 4 years ago.

No matter your personal decision or belief, our lives are different as a result of the pandemic. Our daily routine is not the same as it was a few short years ago. Good, Bad, or Indifferent, we have all had to change. Are we changing for the better? Are we helping others and ensuring we are doing all we can? Let history record that we, as the family of The American Legion were there for our Veterans and their family yesterday, today, and tomorrow. We were there then, we are there now, and we will be there...Always!

Here's wishing all of you a very Merry and safe Christmas, and a prosperous and better New Year!

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander



December 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>There will not be a monthly membership meeting in December. We will instead have our annual Christmas Party that afternoon. There are no Friday night dinners planned for December. There is no SAL meeting in December. ALR will not meet in December.</p>			1	2	3	4
5	6 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	7 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	8	9 TALARC Pot Luck & Radio Session 1800-2000 	10	11 Post Christmas Party! 4:00pm-6:00pm 
12	13 Troop 77 Mtg. 6:00pm	14 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	15	16	17	18 Wreaths Across America! 
19	20	21 Start of Winter	22	23	24	25 Christmas Merry Christmas!
26	27	28	29	30	31	Notes:

January 2022 Events of Note:

Happy New Year! – 1 January

Trivia Night! – 14 January

TALARC (Ham Radio Club) Test Session! – 15 January

Department of Colorado Mid-Year! – 21-23 January

Just a reminder, all Friday Dinners have been cancelled for December to allow our amazing core of volunteers time to attend holiday events, spend quality time with family, and shop for those ideal Christmas gifts!

For schedule updates and more information, visit our website at www.legion209.org