

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

More than any other season, this time of year always drives home how we have changed as a society. As a child growing up in the South, it was always the Christmas season immediately after Thanksgiving. You never heard anyone on the television, radio or in the stores refer to it as the "Holiday season." The paid time off my father got each year on the 25th of December, as well as the week's reprieve from school was called the Christmas break, not the Holiday break. As far as I know, the 25th of December is still called Christmas, not Holiday. What happened to us? Are we so complacent and sensitive to the feelings of a small minority of thoughts that we are ready to change our traditions and traditional way of speaking out of fear a word such as Christmas may offend someone?

I really don't care what your religious beliefs are, or if you even have them. It is frankly none of my business. And I'm pretty confident you could care less what I believe. But this isn't really about Christ's birth or the holiday we set aside each year to celebrate that event. It goes much deeper than that. We have become so Politically Correct (PC) minded that we're afraid to say anything that may be construed we are talking religion, race, sex, or politics. We are giving up our Constitutional right of Free Speech! I thought one of the reasons we served was to protect everyone from losing any of their Constitutional rights. I know it was one of mine.

Don't misunderstand. I don't think it is okay for people in polite society to go around offending everyone they encounter. And I don't think you are entitled to throw profanity around in the presence of women and/or children (more of that Southern upbringing). But saying "Merry Christmas," or "Happy Hanukkah," or even "Happy Holidays" and celebrating Halloween with candy and costumes should be just fine and if it offends someone's sensitivities, then they can just quit frequenting the establishment or party where they heard that horrible term.



Our attitudes, beliefs and values are a large part of who we are. If we are ashamed of them, maybe we should do an introspective. We should feel comfortable speaking about those things that help mold us into what and who we are.

Sorry for the rant, but this time of year saddens me just a bit because I am blasted with signs of where we are headed and I don't like it. Believe it or not, this is my ABSOLUTE favorite time of year and with that I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year! And I promise that if you wish me a Happy Hanukkah, or Merry Kwanza, or even a Happy Holidays, I won't be offended.

For God and Country, Jay



From the SENIOR VICE COMMANDER JERRY HODSON

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and I ask all to be extra safe during this season.

Currently, our membership stands at 438 members toward our goal 526 (which will put the Post at all time high). We need 88 members to attain our own membership goal for 2011.

We have 238 members on our rolls who have not renewed for the year 2011. I would like each of you who have not renewed to please renew your membership by the 15th of December if you can. Your continued membership is important to us and veterans of this nation. For it is with your membership that allows the fight for Veterans Benefits from the past, current and those who will come after us to continue. Your membership help families, children and active families with filing claims, receiving help from veterans just like us.

Merry Christmas and I hope everyone gets what they wanted, or at least what they need.



Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Mildred (Millie) Slagle. The Lord called her home Oct 30, 2010. Please keep her family in your prayers. As we say goodbye to one, we say hello to Essie Armstrong, Mary Rossi, Rebecca Newman, and Gwen Frederick. We also had the pleasure of Joan Ciani visiting with us again. As previously mentioned, we encourage visitors because this is the best way for you to learn more about the Auxiliary.

Due to funding cuts and high insurance costs, the American Legion Children's Home will be closing its doors Dec 31st, 2010. Please keep these families in your prayers.

The feedback we received concerning the Veterans Day Parade has been wonderful. It has been said, "It was one of, if not the best" so far. If at all possible I would like to see more Auxiliary members on the Legion/Auxiliary trailer in the parade next year.

We will be ordering 600 more pocket flags so please look in the newsletter for upcoming dates to get together and fold them.

I'm hoping this gets put out in time for the following request. Gold Star Mothers is doing another drive this year to get wreaths placed on all gravesites in National Cemeteries. If you go to www.wreathsassacrossamerica.com you will be able to donate a wreath or several if you wish, and enter ID # COGSM001, ID # COFLND it will help place wreaths at Ft. Logan. Please note you have the choice of donating for any National Cemetery, but using the above number will help a local Unit of Gold Star Mothers.

This is for all of our Legion family members owning their own businesses. In the near future we will be dedicating an area in our Post home for you to advertise your business. There will be rules to follow. 1) The advertisement must go through the Post Adjutant. 2) It will be on display for a specified time (approx. 90 days) so everyone can take advantage of the space. This is not to say you can't use the space again it's just so everyone has a chance. 3) The Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL are prohibited from endorsing any particular business. It could be considered a conflict of interest. We are hoping our members will take advantage of this opportunity.



The Crawford House is in need of the following items: twin linens, soap products, paper products (paper plates, napkins, etc.), fresh fruit, and toiletries. All donations are very much appreciated and tax deductible. For those of you that don't know, the Crawford House is a treatment center for homeless Veterans with substance abuse problems.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all. I am saying this now since there won't be another newsletter before the holidays.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,
Jackie Bowen



Auxiliary Notes by Marion Daugherty



Our November meeting had a good turnout for revealing our Secret Sister. It is not too late to let your Secret Sister know who you are. If you have any questions I may be able to help

For 2010-2011 our target membership is 80 members. Each month we receive new members and we continue to grow. Thanks for your help and dedication.

This past month our Auxiliary turned in 600 pocket flags to the USO to be distributed to our troops deploying overseas. We will let you know when our next order comes in so everyone that can, can help with the folding.

From time to time we receive a package of limb covers from an Auxiliary Unit in Cortez, Co. I recently learned the lady who makes the limb covers lives in Florida. She had become very despondent because she had nothing to do to occupy her time. An Auxiliary member in Cortez who has ties with her, and knows she like to knit. She mentioned making limb covers for the soldiers. The lady volunteers her time and devotion to making the limb covers. She is delighted to be able to have a purpose for her knitting again. We want to thank her for her dedication and contributions

Unit 209 received a beautiful certificate from the Pueblo Veterans Community Living Center for our support in the All Patients Day activities.

It was a very nice "thank-You".



Post Officers HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Sr. Vice Cdr	Jerry Hodson	719-210-0607
Jr. Vice Cdr	Chet Dean	719-638-8805
Adjutant	Larry Johnson	719-622-0344
Finance Officer	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Chaplain	Mario Taracena	719-495-0363
Sergeant-at-Arms	Robert Rydell	719-634-4203
Historian	Crystal Weller	719-481-8100
Post Executive Committeeman	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Service Officer	John Brown	719-331-8160
Judge Advocate	Charles Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Past Commander	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088

Centennial 209 Calendar of Events

2 Dec	Post Executive Meeting — 6:30 P.M.
3 Dec	Ham Dogger Wingding Night — 6:30 P.M.
7 Dec	Pearl Harbor Day — Ceremonies at Memorial Park
11 Dec	NO BREAKFAST and NO MEETING
16 Dec	Food Drive is over
19 Dec	Christmas Party begins at 4:00 P.M. Santa will be in the house
25 Dec	Christmas Day

31 Dec **New Years Party CANCELLED—Not enough interest**

1 Jan	New Year's Day
6 Jan	Post Executive Meeting 6:30 P.M.
7 Jan	Hamdogger Wingding night — 6:30 P.M.
8 Jan	Breakfast 9:00 A.M. Post and Auxiliary Meeting 10:00 A.M.
15 Jan	Initiation of New Members 4:00 P.M. Dinner to Follow
23-30 Jan	Department Mid-Year Conference Double Tree Hotel (Circle and I-25) Post Exec Meeting 6:30 P.M. Hamdogger, Wingding Night — 6:30 P.M.

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



Auxiliary Officers 2009-2010

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Annie Peterson	719-599-3818
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555
Sergeant-AT-Arms	Kim Brietske	719-266-8755



Board of Trustees 2009-2010

Term (Years)	Name	Telephone
President	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Finance Officer	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Member 2 Yr	Larry Johnson	719-322-0644
Member 2 Yr	Alton Cyriaque	719-495-4732
Member 1 yr	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Member 1 yr	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088



13 Feb	Southern Colorado Regional Oratorical Contest Post 209
18 Feb	Chicken Fried steak Dinner beginning at 6:30 P.M.





CENTENNIAL 209 ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

The Centennial Family is in the middle of our annual food drive serving the Military Families at Fort Carson and our community. The Drive began in October and will end on December the 15th. I am asking all who can, to bring non-perishable items to the Post. Please call 599-8624 to insure someone is there. I thank-you for your help.

Centennial News Articles

For all officers of the Post, Committee Chair's and anyone who wants to submit newsletter articles, they are to be done in font of Times New Roman with a size of 12. All articles need to be turned in to the Adjutant by sending them to the Post at Am-Legion209@base.comcastbiz.net and d7adjutant@yahoo.com by the **15th of every month**. Please ensure that the article is proper for the time of the year. We reserved the right to edit articles as needed.



Hamdogger Wingding Nights

On the 1st Friday of each month we do the Hamdogger Wingding Night and every month we get a couple more members and guests coming down to enjoy an evening with friends and comradeship.

There have been some changes in the pricing of the Hamdogger Wingding evening.

Children (under the age of ten) can get a free hotdog when a parent purchases a regular meal.

Hope to see you soon.



CENTENNIAL 209 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual Christmas party will beheld on Sunday, 19 December beginning at 4:00 p.m. We invite all to come and enjoy what we have to order.

Santa will be here to meet the kids (of all ages) and hear what they want for Christmas.

We are having a Potluck, if you would like to bring a dish, the Post is going to have some hot and cold heavy Hors d'Oeuvres (finger food) or something in that nature.

POST AND TREE DECORATING WILL BE DONE ON SATURDAY, 4 DECEMBER at . If you would like to get into the spirit and have the time we welcome your help and ideas to make this the best Christmas ever.

Hope to see you at the Christmas Party.



From the
Historian
CYRSTAL WELLER

Hello Veterans,; November was quite a month! The Marine Corps Birthday and of course VETERANS DAY!! I took quite a few photos in November. I have posted some on our Website, so please take a look. A bulletin board is now on the wall at the post. I plan to fill it with photos from the different events Post 209 has participated in. On a different note, the scrap booking /card making class did not have any participation, unfortunately. I will offer the class again in January or February, 2011. Think about coming if you can make it!!! Again, If you have any photos or stories, please let me know. Just give the photo to me or bring it to the post, or Just contact me at swishergym@msn.com or 719-481-8100. Have a great Christmas season, everyone!!





**FROM THE CHEF
De POST 209
ART KIMBEL**

I would like to wish Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all members of The Centennial Family.

We have many activities planned for the months ahead and I hope that you and your family will come down and see what we have to offer.

I am looking forward to working with anyone who would like to come down to help prepare the various meals that we serve and to help clean up after the meals. Just come on down and let me know that you would like to help.

You know that the 1st Friday of each month we have what we call the Hamdogger, Wingding night with a pork loin sandwich, which starts at 6:30 P.M. The price varies depending on what you're having, but usually is \$ 8.00 per person

Usually on the 2nd Saturday of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m. is our monthly breakfast. I invite everyone to come down and partake of the prepared food. The cost for breakfast to include omelet's is \$ 8.00 per person.

19 December is the Annual Christmas Party beginning at 4:00 P.M. The Post will be serving Hot and cold Hors d'oeuvres (finger food) and if you would like to bring your favorites please feel free to do so.

14 Jan we are hosting a dinner after the Initiation of New Members. The dinner starts at 6:00 P.M. The menu will consist of Cornish hens, wild rice, vegetables, salad, and a dessert. The cost for this meal will be \$ 9.00 per person .

28 to 29 Jan The Department Mid-year conference will be held in Colorado Springs. During this time period the Post will be offering some diverse food such as hamburgers, hotdogs, baked beans , etc for a nominal price. Come on down eat, enjoy and meet new people. The price will be between \$ 5.00 to 9.00 depending.

12 Feb 2011, a Valentines Dinner will be prepared for your pleasure. The menu will consist of petite steaks, baked potato, vegetables, salad and a dessert

18 Feb 2011, we will be serving a chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, asparagus spears, chocolate mousse for \$ 10.00 per person

NOTE: For the dinners. Children under the age of 12 who are eating off of your plate are free. For the Hamdogger, Wingding night children under the age of 12 will receive a free hotdog.



**From Scouts and Service Officer
John Brown**

Scouts:

Both Pack 24 and Pack 386 have completed their popcorn sales and have made enough money to support a bare bones budget for their scouting program. Thank you to anyone who purchased popcorn from one of our scouts.

Both Packs are holding monthly meetings and scouts are advancing and planning for the holiday season. They will be doing programs to help the community just like American Legion does. So you may hear them caroling, ringing the bell at Red Kettle events or even handing out food or clothing to the less fortunate people of the community.

A special thanks from the Scouts to all our veterans and allowing them to march with us in the Veterans' Day Parade. They loved it...Thanks..

SERVICE OFFICER

This article was taken from the Sep Afterburner....

VA officials explain health care reform impact:

Many veterans have questions about the new health care reform law. The Veterans Health Administration offers the following information about the law and its impact on VA medical care.

Nothing in the new law changes anything about VA health care.

The law contains many complex provisions, including many reforms to the practices of the health insurance industry.

Nothing in the new law changes anything about the Veterans' health care program.

Congress wrote into the law a provision that says the Veterans' health care program, administered by VHA, meets the standard for health care coverage.

Enrolled veterans do not have to purchase additional coverage. Veterans may continue to purchase additional coverage if they wish, but the law does not require them to do so.

VHA officials will provide additional information about the new law as it is developed. (VA)

Merry Christmas



**FROM THE CHAPLAIN
MARIO TARACENA**

It is amazing that we are again at the most beautiful and traditional time of the year. City streets and homes are glowing with lights and decorations. The fragrances and scents of Christmas are everywhere.

Several years have passed since our post was organized and chartered on August 18, 1975. We rented and met in various locations until the real estate property we owned was sold profitably. From the proceeds of the sale our present building was purchased and renovated. Our new post building was inaugurated on April 2009. Much has been accomplished due to the efforts of many front-runner and present legionaries. We have come a long way since those earlier days. Challenges are still ahead, but I am confident that with your personal dedication as well as future generations, much will be done. We are now 400 plus members and growing. Congratulations comrades-in-arms.

Legionnaire Wallace "Wally" Lonsinger passed away on Oct. 17th. He was a very dedicated member who served as a Commander in 1978. He was blessed with a great posterity.

It has been a gratifying experience for me serving you as a Chaplain. I have gained a great admiration and respect for all of you. You have taught me many good attributes and qualities. You have served our fellowmen admirably and in doing so you have served your God well. I am grateful for your friendships and for the sacrifice you have rendered to our country. May this Christmas season bring you and your family peace and well being. May the blessing from God be bestowed plentifully on you as you celebrate the Birth of Jesus the Christ. Take a moment to read and reflect on the glorious event that took place 2,000 years ago: "For God so loved the world that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but has everlasting life" (John: 3-13 ad Luke 2: 7-14)
Merry Christmas



**FROM THE CHAPLAIN
MARIO TARACENA
(CONTINUED)**

Congratulations to Gary Whitsett. He carried in the US flag on Veterans Day Parade. He is engaged to his sweetheart Sherry Blood. Wedding plans are on the way.

Former Commander Harry MacFadden and his wife suffered a health setback last November. Your prayers are requested for the well-being of Mrs. MacFadden who is resting well now.

Kenneth Taylor had a right knee operation on Nov. 8th, he previously had the left knee done and is doing very well now.

Pearl Harbor

We all remember the surprise and treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec 7th. There over 2,000 Americans were killed. The next day, President Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan, stating "Never before has been a greater challenge to life, liberty and civilization.

Even while involved in the European phase of the war, the United States sent more ships and more planes to the Pacific.

Who can forget: Coral Sea, Midway, Guadalcanal, The Aleutians, the Central Pacific Battles, Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa? With Japan's navy destroyed and thousand of American lives lost, the empire surrendered on June 14, 1945. The announcement sent off street celebrations from coast to coast in the United States.

In Connecticut the small town of Moosup, a V-J paper sponsored by the American Legion has been going since 1961. It features more than 200 units and attracts 1,000's of visitors We will be eternally grateful for those who lost their lives.

There may be services conducted at Memorial Park on 7 December.

God Bless America



From the Adjutant
Larry Johnson



Just like Santa who has been checking his list to see who has been naughty and nice, I have been checking the list of members who have not renewed their membership within the American Legion and Son's of The American Legion Squadron for the year 2011.

According to the Constitution of The American Legion if you have not renewed your dues by the end of January you will be carried as delinquent. I would rather have everyone re-new their membership with the American Legion and Centennial Post 209.

Your continued membership is very important, as thru your membership the National Commander needs to insure Congress that he is speaking for all Veterans when he address's Congress on Veterans Benefits, and matter of National concern.

I know that this sounds like everyone is just a number, and your are right especially when late Senator BYRD told the National Commander, that Congress is interested only in how many veterans the American Legion is speaking for and if the Commander does not have the numbers to not confront Congress on Veterans Benefits and National Security in knowing that. That is nationally, locally, we are the point leader of on helping veterans filing their claims with the VA, or reopening their claims, we are also the for runner of providing assistance to the active duty soldier and his/her family when they are having financial problems or help. We help provide this assistance and guidance almost every time we are contacted.

The cost of membership which is \$ 35.00 equates to about \$.97 cents a day for a year membership. I believe that for that amount, \$.97, The American Legion does a lot of good when it comes to helping veterans and our great nation.

I ask you to take a moment and prepare a check, money order to American Legion Post 209 for \$ 35.00 which represents your annual dues for a year and mail it to the business address on the front of the newsletter. Thank-you for help renewal.

Changes to Agent Orange

I hope that by now, everyone knows that the Registry to the Agent Orange has been opened and that the other medical problems have been added to the registry.

However, are you aware that some other exams are now being re-opened. I found this out because I had a claim that was filed from 1985 to the Posting of the new changes to Agent Orange and had the claim denied.

What I guess I am trying to say is that if you had a claim filed in in 1985 was denied coverage for Parkinson's, certain heart diseases and I can't remember the third one right now and you denied you should be receiving a letter from an Organization called MES who is scheduling re-examinations for the diseases you could get back re-imburement for the medical conditions.

The letter says that the VA will re-open your claim, but if you believe that you fall into that category and haven't received a letter all you need to do is contact the regional office in Denver and they will investigate.

One of the things that you need to aware of , is that figures for Veterans making claims in something like 200,000 to 350,000 more claims and it could take a little while the claims are being reviewed. Just have patience and let the system work.

The on thing that I am not sure of is the process, for survivors to make their claim under the new conditions. But, again, contact the Regional Office in Denver and I am sure that they will do their best to provide answers.

I am asking one thing of all of you and that is to pass this information to as many Vietnam Veterans that you know and their families.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
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This is what makes up the American Legion and what the American Legion lives for.