

# The Centennial



VOLUME 25 EDITION 12

DECEMBER 2011

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## From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

Wow, I can't believe another year is coming to an end. This roller coaster ride we call life seems to be moving faster and faster with each passing year. I recall my parents and grandparents telling me something very similar and I remember thinking they must be crazy. As a kid, the year seemed to always drag and it appeared to take forever waiting on Christmas. My grandkids feel that way now. It seems like just last week I was taking down my Christmas lights (wait, that may be right).

I think that perception exists many times because kids are so easily bored that a day just seems to go on forever. As we get older, we find ways to constantly stay busy and our day seems to fill to the point where we sometimes wish there were more hours in a day just to get done the things we want/need to do. I guess that means we either get our kids more engaged so they'll stop complaining about the days lasting an eternity, or we slow down so we can get the perception the days never end. Hmmm.

Related to seemingly eternal days and anticipation of Christmas coming, I can recall very vividly how excited I would get as Christmas drew near. I felt like I would burst just waiting for the 25<sup>th</sup> of December. Then I became a teenager. The most dreaded period of life for everyone; parents as well as kids. For the parents, it meant a time of rebellion and insubordination. For kids, it was the transition of child to adult, complete with all the fun of puberty and gaining knowledge of all things. "Yes'm, I know" was our sons' typical response to everything Jackie said to them. She just loved that expression.



But with the teenage years the much anticipated Christmas day excitement waned. I remember when I was 16, I mentioned this to my grandmother. She just smiled and said it was a natural feeling to lose the Christmas spirit as a teenager. But she said not to worry because the feeling would return when I had kids and especially when I had grandkids. Now being 16 and having received total awareness of all things, I knew she was off her rocker. But I allowed her to ramble on even though her assessment was totally wrong.

I can honestly tell you that when my first born came into the world, I was just as excited about Christmas as when I was a child. I reveled in watching my children and wife unwrap their presents and drank in the looks of love and appreciation when they opened each box. That feeling has never left me. But I've also realized there is so much more about Christmas than the gift giving; there is the celebration of He who has given us life eternal. Oh how I love the Christmas story.

I would like to believe I have grown so much over the years (and not just in girth). I have come to realize that true happiness is not in what you get, it is in what you give. God taught us that lesson on Christmas 2011 years ago. I think that is the reason I so enjoy this time of year. I see more and more people giving instead of taking. What a feeling.

My wish for all of you is for a very Merry Christmas filled with not what you get, but receiving a blessing in what you give.

For God and Country,  
Jay



### Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

We are starting our holiday season with two new members. Susan Ours has decided to join us because the Legion Post where her husband belongs doesn't have an Auxiliary Unit yet. We are extremely happy she joined us. Mary Jenkins is another transfer. One of the remarkable things about Mary is that she is a 60 year member of the Auxiliary. Mary's Grandmother, I believe it was, signed her up as a Junior member. Welcome Ladies.

Thanks to the help of our members, our Butter Braid sale was the best yet. One of our Legion family sold 40 Braids alone. We had one or two others sell quite a few but didn't catch the leader. Great job. Thanks again to you all.

I must concede the fact that the end of the year is near and the holidays are just around the corner. Our decorating committee will be decorating the Post for Christmas Nov 28th. If anyone would like to join us come on down. We will be there at 11:00.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,  
Jackie Bowen



### Thoughts From Marion

Dear Members,

We had a very nice Veterans Day celebration in Colorado Springs. On November 5<sup>th</sup> the city had their annual parade and as in the past, our Post participated. The weather was nice until everything was loaded in the cars after the parade ended, then the storm hit.

On November 11<sup>th</sup> some members attended the Veterans Day ceremony at TREA. That afternoon, members of District 7 and Unit 209 placed flowers on the monuments of the Viet Nam Veterans, the FAC Monument and POW/MIA Monument.



### Thoughts From Marion (continued)

One of the elementary schools in our area had a lesson on what the poppy means. The teacher phoned Jackie Bowen, our President and asked if she could get a poppy for each member of her class. Jackie was able to get the poppies to the school in time for the event. We attended the Veterans Day celebration at their school. The program was excellent and included the Boy Scouts flag ceremony. It was a very impressive afternoon spent with the children.

At our recent Marines Birthday celebration, we welcomed 35 Air Force Academy Cadets. All were very professional and courteous. It was neat to have a chance to chat with them.

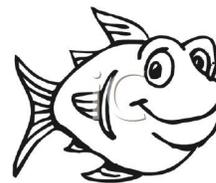
We will not have a regular morning meeting in December. Instead, our meeting will be a Christmas Party at the Post beginning at 6:00 pm on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be door prizes. Please RSVP with Jackie or Lynn Thomas.

I would like to report from February until this date our Auxiliary has sent a total of 244 helmet liners to Afghanistan. I do not have the actual count on the total for baby caps taken to Memorial Hospital but I would guess around 200. Our Auxiliary members have done an excellent job in creating these much needed items. Thank you ladies for your continued effort on these and other projects. This month I sent out three boxes; one to the Bethesda Naval Hospital with 6 limb covers and a lap robe, and 2 boxes to Afghanistan with 55 helmet liners and an assortment of candy.

Best Wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### Fish Fry Friday

Beginning the 2nd Friday in January, the first being 13 Jan 2012, the Post will start offering a Fish Fry.



We would like make a reservation Jackie Bowen Lynn Thomas and let us know how many will be coming with you for dinner.

everyone to please tion by calling at 719-574-1223 or at 719-439-6268



## Post Officers 2011-2012

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Sr. Vice Cdr	Mark Krzeczowski	719-282-1380
Jr. Vice Cdr	Lyle Hagelberg	719-594-4039
Adjutant	Larry Johnson	719-622-0344
Finance Officer	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Chaplain	Chet Dean	719-244-2442
Sergeant-at-Arms	Don Shuck	719-575-0539
Historian	Gideon Diamon	719-638-1258
Post Executive Committee member	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Service Officer	John Brown	719-331-8160
Judge Advocate	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Past Commander	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610

Post Email: [americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com](mailto:americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com)

Web Site: [www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org](http://www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org)



## Auxiliary Officers 2010-2011

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Linda O'Riley	719-597-5673
Secretary	Lynn Thomas	719-392-1510
Treasurer	Mary Grier	719-536-0438
Chaplain	Marion Daugherty	719-637-9555
Sergeant-AT-Arms	Lois Wooton	719-599-8683



## Board of Trustees 2011-2012

Term (Years)	Name	Telephone
President (1 yr)	Neal Thomas	719-392-1510
Commander (1 yr)	Jay Bowen	719-574-1223
Finance Officer (1 yr)	Norman Moyer	719-392-3725
Member 1 Yr	Larry Johnson	719-322-0644
Member 1 Yr	Alton Cyriaque	719-495-4732
Member 3 yr	Chuck Zeitvogel	719-531-0546
Member 3 yr	Bill Marshall	719-495-0088



## Son's of The American Legion 2011-2012

Commander	Frank Maellaro Sr.
Adjutant	Frank Anderson
Finance Officer	Ken Taylor
Chaplain	Chet Dean



## Centennial 209 Family Calendar of Events

1 Dec	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30 pm
2 Dec	Hamdogger Wingding dinner 6:30 pm
10 Dec	Legion and Auxiliary <b>NO MEETING!</b> SAL Meeting at 10:00 am <b>Christmas Party 6:00 pm</b>
16 Dec	Steak Night 6:30 pm
25 Dec	Christmas Day
31 Dec	New Years Eve

## 1 Jan 2012

	New Year's Day — Please be Safe
5 Jan	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30 pm.
6 Jan	Hamdogger Wingding Dinner 6:30 pm
13 Jan	Fish Fry 6:30 pm
14 Jan	Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Meeting 10:0 pm
27-29 Jan	Dept Mid-Year Conference—Longmont
2 Feb	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30 pm
3 Feb	Hamdogger Wingding Diner 6:30 pm
5 Feb	Chili Cook Off 1:00 P.M. Super Bowl Party 3:00 pm
10 Feb	Fish Fry 6:30 pm
11 Feb	Breakfast 9:00 am Meetings 10:00 am
14 Feb	Valentines Day Dinner 6:30 pm
17 Feb	Steak Night 6:30 pm
24 Feb	Pot Luck Dinner 6:30 pm

## Potluck Dinners

A Potluck Dinner has been proposed every 4th Friday, beginning February. The dinner will be served at 6:30 pm.



We would like to have your input as to whether or not you would have the time and desire to participate in a Potluck Dinner.

If you would like to participate but want to suggest another day, please let us know as soon as possible.

## INFORMATION ON DD FORM 214

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for Veterans to gain access to their DD 214. <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

This may be particularly helpful when a Veteran needs a copy of his/her DD Form 214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for Veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military Veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online website. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the requests, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask Veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the record centers mailroom and processing time.

Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents.

### RSVP Special

Make an advance reservation for the Steak night on 16 December and receive a special discount. With advance reservations & the coupon on this page, you get a steak at the regular price of \$12.00 and the second for a price of \$10.00.

Please note the change for RSVPs. Lynn Thomas and Jackie Bowen have taken over to try and relieve some of the workload from the Post Adjutant. You can contact Jackie at (719) 574-1223 home, or [jack-iebowen2005@yahoo.com](mailto:jack-iebowen2005@yahoo.com). Lynn's contact number is (719) 439-6268. Present the coupon with your order.

Jackie Bowen



## Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Frank Maellaro

Saturday, 10 December, The Son's of The American Legion Squadron 209 will meet at 10:00 am.

I invite all of the SAL members who have joined anytime during the past couple of years to attend this meeting to learn what we are all about.

If you have questions or would like more information please email me at [maellaro@comcast.net](mailto:maellaro@comcast.net).

If you haven't renewed for 2012, or if you want to join, please take a moment and send a check or money order for \$20.00 to Squadron 209 and mail it to P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, CO 80936.

Thank you Frank



### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday, 10 December we will be hosting our annual Christmas Party. The festivities will begin at 6:00 pm. We are asking everyone to bring a favorite dish or dessert to share with everyone, and it might be a good idea to bring your recipe in case someone just can't live without the dish.

Santa will also be making a visit. We are asking you to bring a wrapped toy with your child's name on it so Santa can give them a gift.

Just in case you haven't thought of this, you all are invited to the Christmas Party and this is a family affair.

On behalf of the Officers of Post 209, "MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR"!

**STEAK NIGHT  
COUPON**

Buy 1 dinner at Regular Price of \$12.00, get the 2<sup>nd</sup> One at \$ 2.00 off.

**Good only during the month of December and with a reservation made in advance**

The coupon graphic features a blue header with the text "STEAK NIGHT COUPON" in red and white. Below the header are two images of a steak. The main text of the coupon is in black on a light background, and the bottom line is in red and black.





## Something New—Reminiscences of the Past

We are starting a new column. You can call it “War Stories,” or “Reminiscences of your Days in the Military.” We don’t care. But if you have a story you want to share, send it to us. We want to highlight at least one per month if space allows. Please don’t get discouraged or disappointed if your article doesn’t get printed the same month you send it. If it is a timely piece (meaning the published month holds a special meaning as in case of this first one), let us know when you send it. We’ll try to accommodate. Thanks much to Lyle for the idea and getting us kick-started.

### Reminiscences from Junior Vice Commander Lyle Hagelberg

I don’t know if any of you have lost a relative, friend or comrade, but I’ve had that dubious distinction. From 1969-1970, my boss in the Rated Officer Assignment shop at Air Defense Command (ADC) was Major Owen (Pete) Skinner, a Weapons System Officer (WSO) from Lima, Ohio. In my 10 years of military service, he was the first officer that became close to the 4 enlisted that worked for him. We would sit in the office talking as one guy to another; never did rank interfere with our conversation. One of our jobs was to assign pilots or WSOs to flying jobs in Vietnam/Thailand. Pete had big floppy black hat like pictures of the hillbillies in Appalachia. When we selected an officer from one of our 14 flying squadrons to go to ‘Nam,’ Pete would be the one to call (always telephone). He would put on his ‘black hat,’ lean back in his chair and talk to the selected officer. As I said, Pete had flown in the backseat of ADC aircraft (F101 and B57), so he was personally acquainted with many of these officers. It was a real education to watch him notify these flyers that they were heading for the war.

Why am I talking about Pete Skinner? In July 1970, Pete put his black hat on and told us that he was next up for ‘Nam’ where he would be a navigator in an O2A spotter airplane flying out of NKP. The next thing we heard was that on December 12, 1970 his plane went down near the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos. His job that day was spotting trucks coming down the ‘Trail’ so a B-57 could bomb them. Wreckage and a parachute was seen from the air but no one ever heard of Pete or the pilot, 1Lt Thomas Duckett again. They were MIA. In November 1978 he was declared KIA.

Every few years I look at the DOD website to see if his status has changed. So far, it has not! At those times I get a bit nostalgia and I want to talk to someone about Pete. Thus this little story. It was the same when I visited the black wall in Washington, DC a few years ago and saw his name among the 58,267; nostalgia and tears. But I feel lucky to have known him if only for a few months. He taught me quite a bit about the rated personnel business. So comrades, when I place the MIA flag on the chair during our monthly meetings and slowly salute that flag, I am thinking about not only all our MIAs; I am also thinking about one in particular. God bless the USA!

### MEMBERSHIP 2012

We are quickly approaching the time of year that most Posts within the American Legion dread. There are a lot of Legionnaires who have not renewed their membership for the upcoming year.

As a Post, we are very unique and it is because of our Centennial Post 209 members. We are currently 71 members away from making our goal for 2012 of 554 members. We are going great guns and we stand a good chance of making our goal by the end of December. We really need to make that 100% goal prior to the end of December to get proper recognition at the annual Convention.

Reminders will be mailed out to those of you who have not renewed for 2012. When you receive the reminder, please take a moment get a check or money order for \$35.00 and send it to American Legion Post 209, PO Box 25334, Colorado Springs, CO 80936 or go to our webpage at, [www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org](http://www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org) and renew via PayPal.



## Season Greetings

Finally, the most beautiful time of the year is here. As we celebrate Christmas, may our minds and hearts turn to the Scriptures. Here we can search and meditate on the birth and life of Jesus, the Christ. As we do so, let us acknowledge God's gift to us by serving and praying for others. Some of our fellow Legionnaires and their families are in need of comfort, healing and peace. Some members of our Post have gone through medical procedures, accidents, and painful experiences. Others are the sole caregivers of spouses or family members. There are also those with financial hardships and problematic situations. As you serve and pray for these fellow Veterans you will be uplifted, inspired, and filled with the true Spirit of Christmas. These feelings are hard to define, but you will recognize them.

Merry Christmas—May God Bless you Abundantly

## News You Can Use

As our nation faces fiscal austerity, there is a growing notion in Congress to require Veteran retirees to pay more for health care. While the need to cut expenses is real, those Veterans who were willing to sacrifice so much should be treated with a different approach. The American Legion has already sent letters to Congress to spare these health care benefits. Your personal support is needed to enhance our resolve. Please contact your Senator or Representative.

On another front, a deal was finally reached to start construction this month of a new Veterans Hospital. The facility will be a state-of-art spinal cord injury care center. It will house 182 beds, a Nursing home, and an outpatient clinic. Your patience has paid off. Congratulations.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, Mario Taracena



From Scouts and Service Officer  
**John Brown**

## Scouts: November- Popcorn results

Well it was a great time to sell popcorn. Pack 386 sold over \$12,000 dollars of popcorn and Pack 24 sold close to \$8,000 dollars of that delicious popcorn. OK, I know it gets in our teeth but the cause is great, 40% of the Pikes Peak Council funding comes from popcorn sales from 10 year old boys. The boys also learned to speak to customers and with the money they earned, summer camp is paid for, as well as any other event the boys want to attend will be paid for if they participate. That is the motto for both packs, "make the pack grow" and their teamwork helps in providing the program, the awards and the leadership training that helps them grow.

## Service: Donate wisely this year

It's the season of giving, and with a little due diligence, you can ensure your contributions will make a difference. Here are some tips to help you check a charity before you give.

- a. Do not give cash: donate by check (made payable to the charity) or by credit card.
- b. Watch out for charities with names similar to well known organizations.
- c. Verify a charity's tax-exempt status and eligibility to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions at [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities) or by calling the IRS at (877) 829-5500.
- d. The American Institute on Philanthropy offers a Charity Rating Guide and Watchdog Report at [www.charitywatch.org](http://www.charitywatch.org).
- e. All charities that participate in the Combined Federal Campaign operate under government regulations provided through the Office of Personnel Management.
- f. If you ever feel uncomfortable, say, "No thank you."

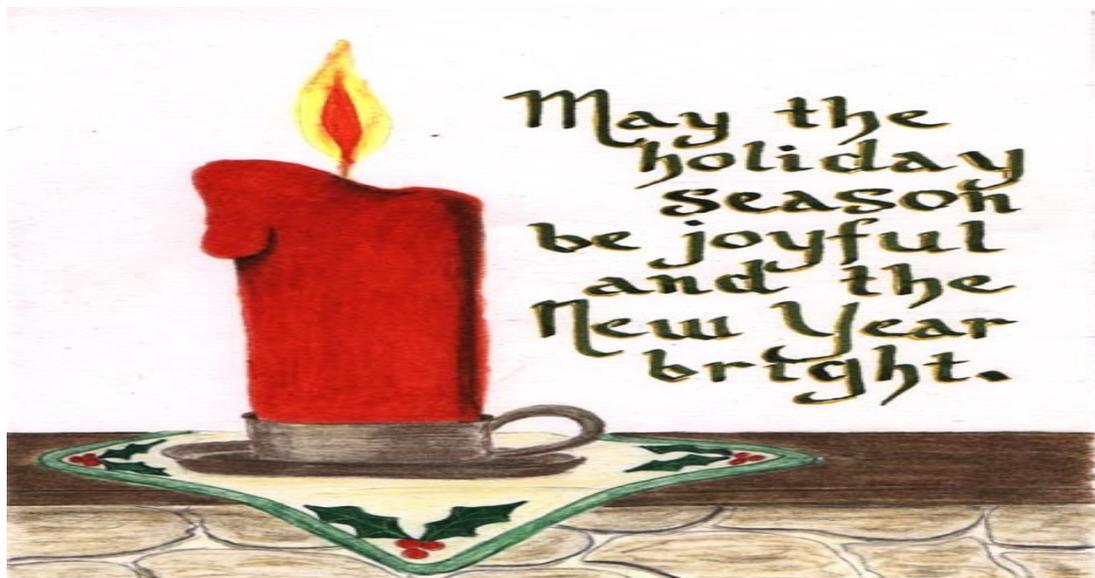
Taken from *Military Officer* November 2011



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
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## What I always wanted to know about The American Legion

The question was asked; What is the appropriate attire to be dressed as a legionnaire? The accepted standard for appropriate Legion attire is The American Legion Cap. The appropriate attire when dressing for an official function is the blue blazer and grey trousers. The Legion cap can be worn inside most building except in churches or sanctuaries. The cap is removed when entering and left off until exiting the facilities.

Most of you have heard of the four pillars of The American Legion but how many of you really know who were the four individuals that worked diligently to found the organization. These four Founders were all combat officers in the first "War to end all wars;" World War I. The armistice had been signed but at this time there were nearly 2 million US Servicemen serving with the A.E.F. (American Expeditionary Forces) in France. Morale was at an all time low as everyone was eager to get back to the states as soon as possible. This was going to be a long and boring time as they waited for ships to take them home.

There were four officers who met in Paris and discussed the problems facing the returning servicemen and decided to try and form a fraternal organization that would provide some structure for their lives once they returned home. They saw the need for a very strong organization that would provide the needed assistance in restructuring their lives as civilians. Programs needed to be established to provide for the care of those who were wounded, the orphans, widows and others who were displaced and unemployed. There was also a desire for a strong organization to represent their needs before congress. It had been reported that there were several splinter organizations already in existence back in the states that were fleecing the few Veterans that had already returned. Just as we have today there were unscrupulous individuals who claimed to be Veterans who were taking advantage of the returning Veteran's.



Recognizing the plight of returning wartime Veterans the four decided to undertake the job of initiating efforts to form a valid Veteran's organization. As most of you are aware; they were extremely successful in this endeavor and The American Legion was formed in Paris France. The question remains as to who these four officers were.

The four officers were: Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. Lt. Col. George S. White, Major Eric Fisher Wood and Lt. Col. William J. Donovan. These were actually the four pillars of The American Legion. They all returned safely back to the states and continued forming what we have today as the world's largest Veteran organization.

For God and Country  
Neal L. Thomas, Jr.  
Executive Committeeman



**From the Adjutant  
Larry Johnson**

We are growing in every aspect that you can think of, which is a very great thing to be experiencing.

It's not too early to be asking yourself questions like "Where is my Post Going?" and "How are we going to get there?" and "What kind of help do they NEED?" and even "How can I help?"

I may be early in my bringing this up, but it needs to be brought forward for you to think about. In February, the Commander will be appointing a Nomination Committee for the purpose of finding Officers and Committee persons for 2012-2013.

Besides being an officer or a person on a committee, we need some help making sure our computer equipment and wiring for WIFI is all good and we can operate in the future. The Post needs to have a newsletter committee that will design the newsletter, get it printed, and get it to the Post Office. When we need repairs to the building and other work we could use the help of plumbers, carpenters, lawn care and the list goes on and on.

Please give some consideration to become involved. We could use your help and input.

I ask everyone to join me and welcome the Legionnaires who are listed below. They are either new members or transfers to the Post since 1 July.

Martin Robinson, Rhiannon LaneHart, Derek Musser, Michael Johnson, Charles Wallace, Norris Jordon, Ronald Sheets, Donald McGruder, Christopher Ross, Richard Dockstrader, Robert Donnelly, David Arthur, Jennifer Olson, Wendy Fuller, Willard Dynes, James Dill, Gordon Hetherington, Joe Smith, David Taylor, Richard Berard, Soliai Moevao, Richard Hallman, James Kelly, Catherine Westervelt, Herbert Smith, Allen "Craig" Wamsley, David Cox, Carlos Harlow, Kim Stockinger, Joseph Shute, Lucinda Miller, Joseph Van, James Myers, Edward Briere, John Guagano, Joseph Stout, Raymond Sikorsky, Paul Evans, Tyrel Willison, Betty Bowman, Peter Murphy, John Ublinsky, Gregory Andries, Stephen Graff, David Matthew, Thomas Walters, Tom Perez, Cliff Stoker, Victor Sestokas, Edward Wark, Debra Shaffer, Gene Stoneburrer, Bob Barker Sr., Brent Wood, Richard Hebrer, Robert Maddocks, Earl Julian, David Arra, Franklin Graham, Joseph Ferri, Marvin Gielen, Robert Klipping, Kasandra Nicole Alis, Austin Eckmyre, Jon Staples, Joseph Graff, Robert Gibbs, Donald Eales, Thodore Williams, Edward Siergies, James Calvin, Don Morphis, Curtis Devin, Mike Kruse, Earl Hansen, Robert Dion, Edgard Hall, Justin Collins, Donald Cross, Daniel Stewart, Reavis Shumate, Michael Bowen, Ed Christenson, Charles, Boland, Phillip Sosalla, Robert Snider, Richard Monroe, Robert Olson, Carlos Hernandez, John Sebben, Frank Ozant, Connie Knight, Terry Doty, Tabitha Miller, Arthur Freeburg, Joe Bruno, Merrill Westrope, Kenneth Westrope, Kenneth Allen, Gary Baumann, Gary Butkus, Larry Billesbock, Kenneth Armatraden, Bruce Smith, James Schwenger, Wayne Crandall, Carl Fry, Jerry Greene, John Hayes, Clarence Jenkins, Thomas Jaworski, Anthony Johnson, Logan Keler, Gerald Koch, Duncan, MacDonald, Anthon Crincoli, and Bobby Rogers.

I'm sure we will get more new and transfer members into the Post before the 2012 year ends.

#### Take My Son

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art. When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier.

The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son. About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, "Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art."

#### Take My Son

The young man held out this package. "I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this." The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears.

He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. "Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift."

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection.

On the platform sat the painting of the son. The Auctioneer pounded his gavel.

"We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?"

There was silence.

Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, "We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one."

But the auctioneer persisted. "Will someone bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100, \$200?"

Another voice shouted angrily. "We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!"

But still the auctioneer continued. "The son! The son! Who'll take the son?"

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the longtime gardener of the man and his son. "I'll give \$10 for the painting." Being a poor man, it was all he could afford.

"We have \$10, who will bid \$20?"

"Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters."

"\$10 is the bid, won't someone bid \$20?"

The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel. "Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!"

A man sitting on the second row shouted, "Now let's get on with the collection!"

The auctioneer laid down his gavel. "I'm sorry, the auction is over."

"What about the paintings?"

"I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings.

The man who took the son gets everything!"

God gave His son 2,000 years ago to die on a cruel cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: "The son, the son, who'll take the son?"

Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything.