

The Centennial



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December 2018

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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Lino Calica



Hope everyone had a tremendous and safe *Thanksgiving holiday*. As we celebrate the Christmas season, my family and I would like to wish all of you, "*Mele Kalikimaka & Hau'oli Makahiki Hou*" (**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**).

I would like to take this time to **WELCOME** all the new members and their families who have joined or transferred to Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 Legion family. Thank you all for your service.

Fiscal year 2018 was a strong year for Post 209, starting with the leadership of past Post Commander Mike Barger. His leadership executive team, the members and their families, worked hard and diligently in the membership program. Through their efforts, it resulted in not only reaching the American Legion Department of Colorado membership goal, but surpassing that goal and kept Post 209 number one in the state. As we began the 2019 membership drive, our membership count is at 759 members. That brings our membership at 71% of the department goal of 1065. Magnificent job everyone.

I would like to thank Art Kimbrel, and the awesome ladies of the Auxiliary who dedicate their time in preparing the fine dinners and lunches for all our events the Post. And I deeply appreciate the volunteers who give their time to serve the Post and community. A special thanks also to Donna and Eric Testorff and Joe Schmidt who runs the lounge. If you have any spare time to volunteer and assist them, it will be greatly appreciated.

Within the past five months Post 209 has been active in supporting the various Veteran's organization and their communities. Our Legion family supported the following activities: The Flag Disposal Ceremony at Post 209, McCandless Veteran's nursing home for a Barbeque and ice cream social, POW/MIA Cripple Creek support ride, the Post Poker run, the Neal Thomas Jr. Memorial Ride to Bishop's Castle, the all patient's day at the Pueblo Veterans Nursing Home and the Homeless Veteran's Coalition Stand-down. The Auxiliary ladies prepared 4 Sunday dinner meals for the Veteran's and their families staying at the Clarion Hotel. The Legion Riders provided the security for this event.

Thank you to Dave and Becky Hall who chaired the volunteer recruitment for the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo. They recruited volunteers from the American Legion Post 5, 38, 39, 209 and 2008 to participate as ushers, parking lot guides other tasks as needed. Each Post that provided volunteers for this event received funds from the Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo. Our Post received a check for \$1,426.00. Thank you all that volunteered your time for this event.

There will be no General meeting for the month of December. Our next general meeting will be January 12, 2019.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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



From the Unit 209 President

Cathy Barger

A big thank you from me and the Officers to you all who stepped up in 2018 and volunteered at the Post. December is here. Can you believe it? This is the time for family and I'd like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from my family to yours.

The annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Colorado Springs was attended by our Post 209 family, the Department of Colorado, Department Auxiliary President Laurie Kuntz, and Department Commander Rob Smith. The weather was a bit windy and cool, but it didn't spoil the day to honor our Nation's heroes. We had Scouts helping us decorate the grandstands for celebrating Armistice/Veterans Day 100 Years 1918 – 2018. This was a very rewarding day.

The one of kind Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 Christmas Ornaments and The Legion Family Cookbook are still available. These make a great gifts. You can purchase the ornament or cookbook for \$15.00 each. I also want to thank those who helped cook and serve the meals and provided desserts for the homeless Veterans and their families that were housed at the Clarion Hotel.

Thanks to all who supported the Butter Braid sales. We had another successful fundraiser with your help.

We are doing the "Toys for Tots" program. Help by bringing the joy of Christmas and the hope of a better future to the Nation's less fortunate children by donating today!

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



HO! HO! HO!



MERRY CHRISTMAS! Dec 15th, 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. This is the reason we ask you to RSVP for the children you are bringing so that no child gets left out. Hope to see everyone there.

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.



From our American Legion Riders

President Grady "K-Bar" Mitchell

This is a very hard article to write for several reasons. Primarily because it's my last as an ALR 209 Rider. As many of you know, I've been working with American Legion Post 172 in Fairplay to help set up an ALR Group there. As of this writing, the application has been approved and ALR 172 is a reality. I feel honored to have been elected their first President and look forward to getting the program rolling and working with Vets and veteran organizations in Park County.

Having said that, I'm going to miss Post 209 and the ALR 209 Riders. Over the years I've had the privilege of meeting and working with some terrific people and some great leaders. I like to think that what knowledge and skills I may have are a result of working with the Founders and Officers of ALR 209. I've formed some friendships that will be lasting and know that I can still count on advice and counsel from this Post.

I'm looking forward to seeing the 209 Riders on the road, so as always, be safe out there and keep the rubber side down.



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 15th and rumor has it a special guest will be making an appearance; I hope to see you there.

Please RSVP to Jackie Bowen by December 12th so we can get a headcount of kids coming.

We are doing well on membership for 2019 but still have a ways to go. Our goal is 1,065 members and we still need about 300 members. If you have not renewed by December 31, 2018 you will be carried as delinquent on your membership. Please, if you have not renewed yet, send in your renewal.

We have had an incredible year and I look forward to seeing what we can do in the next year with all of your help. Post 209 is recognized by the Department and Nationally as a Post who is growing and doing great things. That is because of members such as yourself and what you bring to our Post. Thank you for all that you



Santa Claus is Coming to Post 209!

That's right! The word on the street is that Santa is making his rounds right before Christmas and there is a rumor he plans to visit Colorado. And because we've all be VERY good, there's a better than average chance he will visit Post 209!



When?: Saturday, 15 December 2018

Where?: 3613 Jeannine Drive

What Time?: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Why?: Why not? As we mentioned above, we've been VERY good. We've assisted Veterans, their family; we've mentored our youth; we've encouraged and advocated for a strong National Defense; and we are the epitome of Americanism and Patriotism!

RSVP Requirement?: Only if you are bringing a child 12 and under. If so, please RSVP to Jackie Bowen at jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com with the name of the child. **Also, bring a wrapped gift for the child(ren) with their name on it so Santa can make the presentation.**

Details: Our Christmas party will kick off at 4:00pm. This will be a Pot Luck dinner. There is no cost for attendance, but we ask that you bring enough food to feed 2 or 3 more than the number of people you are bringing with you.



From The Sons of The American Legion Squadron Commander
Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski

Good day all my American Legion family and SAL Brethren,

Sons of The American Legion - Founded in 1932, Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires.

It is renewal time for membership dues in the SAL. As you know, membership is the lifeblood of any organization. Your membership contributes to the overall programs of the SAL and keeps us growing. You are important to us. Your promptness in forwarding dues at this time will be deeply appreciated.

At our SAL meeting last month we decided to forgo our meetings in November and December due to the Holiday Season and folks being busy otherwise. Our next meeting, will be 22 January, 2019, from 1745-1900 where we will discuss our way forward and what involvement the Squadron should consider.

Please step-up, show up and ask "What can I do?"...you will be a more fulfilled person because of it.

Please visit the Sons of The American Legion web-site and view all the current stories at <https://www.legion.org/sons>.

'We can only make a difference if we are involved...participants not spectators.'



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

Origin of NAVY Terminology
Rusty Bower



Gun Salutes: In the days of cannon, it took as long as twenty minutes to load and fire a gun. When a ship fired her guns in salute, she rendered herself powerless for the duration. By emptying their guns, the ship's crew showed shore batteries and forts that they were no threat. Over time, this gesture became a show of respect, with both shore and ship gun batteries firing volleys. While many people like to say the 21 gun salute was a tribute to the American Revolution, a number determined as a result of adding together the numbers 1+7+7+6, the truth is the 21 gun salute was an effort to cut costs. The habit of firing salutes became wasteful, with ships and shore batteries firing shots for hours on end. This was particularly expensive for ships, which had a limited space to store powder (which went bad quickly in the salt air). The British admiralty first dictated the policies now in place as a practical matter to save gunpowder. The rule was simple, for every volley fired by a ship in salute, a shore battery could return up to three shots. The regulations limited ships to a total of seven shots in salute, so the 21 gun-salute became the salute used to honor only the most important dignitaries. Today, the U.S. Navy Regulations prescribe that only those ships and stations designated by the Secretary of the Navy may fire gun salutes. **A national salute of 21 guns is fired on:**

- Washington's Birthday
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- To honor the President of the United States
- To honor heads of foreign states.

Additionally, ships may, with approval from the office of the Secretary of the Navy, provide gun salutes for naval officers on significant occasions, using the following protocol:

- Admiral-17 guns
- Vice Admiral-15 guns
- Rear Admiral (upper half)-13 guns
- Rear Admiral (lower half)-11 guns

All gun salutes are fired at five second intervals. Gun salutes will always total an odd number.



**From the Sr. Vice Commander
Eric Testorff**

The Wreaths Across America event is held each year on the third Saturday in December at Arlington National Cemetery, and at over 1,400 locations in all 50 states, at sea, and abroad. This year it occurs on Saturday, December 15th. The event is timed to commence simultaneously, starting at 12:00 noon in the Eastern Time Zone, (10:am Mountain Time.)

Members and loved ones of American Legion Post 209 are invited to attend the Laying of the Wreaths ceremony at 10 o'clock in the Memorial Gardens Cemetery Chapel at Airport and Academy Blvd. After the ceremony, which honors the departed from each branch of the military services, we will proceed outside to the gravesites of roughly 1,800 Veterans interred there.



Worldwide, over one million wreaths will be laid this year at the graves of fallen and departed Veterans. In Colorado, there are over 160,000 Veteran graves, and last year, there were not enough wreaths to cover them all. Only one in five Veteran graves in our state received a wreath. This is why we are asking for your help.

You, your family, your friends or co-workers can purchase a wreath for a Veteran grave for only \$15. The deadline to purchase is December 3rd, 2018. This ensures the wreaths arrive at our cemeteries before the ceremony on the 15th.



This year, we have a community partner, Colorado Honor, who will help us with a good distribution of wreaths to our Colorado Springs area cemeteries. You can buy wreaths at their Web site: coloradohonor.com. When filling out the order form, be sure to select "Colorado Springs, CO" where it says, "Requested City for Wreath". This will help us ensure that our local cemeteries receive the needed wreaths.

Thank you for your support of our Colorado Springs Veterans and their families, especially at this time of year. All Gave Some, Some Gave All, and all should be remembered.

Looking for Legionnaires' Owned Businesses and/or Services to Offer!

Do you own or work for a business providing services and/or products? Would you like to register your business with us? I can't tell you how many times I've needed or been asked if I knew a Veteran owned business offering services or products. I know that with a Post as large as ours, we have several who could fit into one or several of those categories. We want to know who you are.

Let us know what products or services you offer and whether you can extend a discount to a fellow Legionnaire. We are creating a database so we can help you grow your business while also helping our members find good Veteran owned businesses or Veterans who work for a business that may have something we need. We're not saying we will necessarily recommend your business, but we will let them know about you.

Do you need a fireplace or work on your existing fireplace? We know someone who can help. Do you need to replenish your bar at home? A member of our Post owns a Liquor Store and they offer discounts to Legionnaires every day. Do you need some plumbing help? A member of our Post works for a well-known and respected plumbing company.

We know there are MANY others out there and in our Post. Let us know. Contact Marvin Weaver Jr. to get your name and your company's name on the list!



Young Guns Update Ken Taylor



Friday November 16th was a busy night at Post 209. It started off with a fantastic Holiday Dinner provided by Art and the kitchen crew. Drawings were then held for Queen of Hearts, Air Force Football Tickets, and the Gun Safe with a bonus gun inside. All winners were contacted and most have already claimed their prize! The Annual Turkey Shoot was then held with categories for youth, ladies and men. The top shooter in each category walked away with a turkey for the Thanksgiving Table!



During all this activity, a silent auction was held to benefit our junior shooting program, the Young Guns. The Auction and Turkey Shoot together netted \$462.00 for the Program. Thanks to everyone who helped make this evening a fantastic success! A great time was had by all and it was a wonderful start to the Holiday Season.



Pictured left to right: Cris Bower, Ron Taylor, and Rusty's and Cris' granddaughter Madiana Martinez. Congrats to all winners!

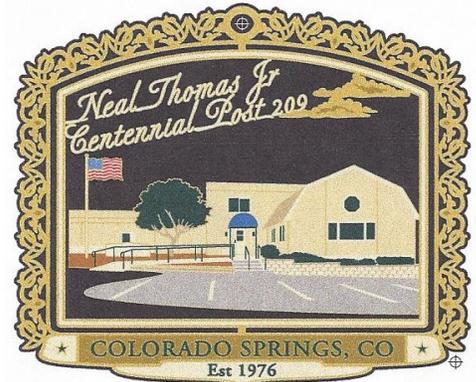


Auxiliary Fundraiser; Christmas Ornament and Cookbook Jackie Bowen, Past Unit President

The "One-of-a-Kind" Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 Christmas Ornaments are offered again this year. As you can imagine, this will almost immediately be a collector's item as it features our Post home and name. It makes a beautiful gift for someone special or for yourself and a lasting memory of the best American Legion family Post in Colorado.

This lacquered brass ornament is approximately 2 1/4" high by 2 3/4" wide. We are selling the ornaments for only \$15.00 each.

They will look great on any Christmas Tree or displayed prominently on a shelf in your home. Please consider supporting our Auxiliary fundraiser with a purchase. All proceeds will go to help our local area Veterans and their family. Contact me with questions and to buy one of these great ornaments.



COOKBOOK
Recipes submitted by members of
NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209
COLORADO SPRINGS

We are also selling our Post 209 family cookbooks. They are filled with the favorite recipes from our members and include special drink recipes as well as desserts, side and main dishes. Get your now for only \$15.00 each.

Thanks in advance and Merry Christmas!



From the Jr. Vice Commander

Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski

Good day all my American Legion family and future Legion volunteers,

To continue on and conclude with my article from September, let's discuss Benefit #4 of consider this: Volunteering and its Surprising Benefits...How Giving to Others Makes You Healthier and Happier!

1. Volunteering connects you to others (September's article)
2. Volunteering is good for your mind and body (October's article)
3. Volunteering can advance your career (November's article)
4. Volunteering brings fun and fulfillment to your life (December's article)

Benefit 4: Volunteering brings fun and fulfillment to your life.

Volunteering is a fun and easy way to explore your interests and passions. Doing volunteer work you find meaningful and interesting can be a relaxing, energizing escape from your day-to-day routine of work, school, or family commitments. Volunteering also provides you with renewed creativity, motivation, and vision that can carry over into your personal and professional life.

Many people volunteer in order to make time for hobbies outside of work as well. For instance, if you have a desk job and long to spend time outdoors, you might consider volunteering to help plant a community garden, walk dogs for an animal shelter, or help out at a children's camp.

Consider your goals and interests.

You will have a richer and more enjoyable volunteering experience if you first take some time to identify your goals and interests. Think about why you want to volunteer. What would you enjoy doing? The opportunities that match both your goals and your interests are most likely to be fun and fulfilling.

Volunteering doesn't have to take over your life to be beneficial. In fact, research shows that just two to three hours per week, or about 100 hours a year, can confer the most benefits—to both you and your chosen cause. The important thing is to volunteer only the amount of time that feels comfortable to you. Volunteering should feel like a fun and rewarding hobby, not another chore on your to-do list.

Taken from and please visit www.helpguide.org <<http://www.helpguide.org>> .

With these benefits, I have shared with you the past four months, keep in mind...those at your Post who are already members, volunteers and participants are eagerly awaiting to guide and assist you.

Please step-up, show up and ask "What can I do?"...you will be a more fulfilled person because of it.

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness!

'We can only make a difference if we are involved...participants not spectators.'

From Post 209 Legionnaire Peggy Baldwin

My son, Joseph Baldwin is a photographer and combat Veteran.

He is working on a project telling combat Veterans' stories from all eras. He will be taking portraits with a 4x5 film camera and a little video telling your story.

If you are local and a combat Veteran, he would love to tell your story. His goal for this project is to turn it into a non-profit to help Veterans through art.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact him at 719-761-7014 or email joe@resilientheros.org



From the Historian

Art "AJ" Carter

Selected Colorado Post 209 Past Events October 16 thru November 14

Oct 16: Stand Down. The El Paso County Homeless Veterans Coalition (EPCHVO), including a wide array of community organizations (52) along with the VA and active military members joined forces with the Veterans Service Organizations of the Pikes Peak region in the annual push to get assistance to area homeless Veterans. Around 200 Veterans were served by over 400 volunteers at the Stand Down this year. Members of Post 209 manned supply tables, worked as escorts, and served as security. The Vets were provided access to a large variety of products and services designed to help get them through the winter and back on their feet. This included help from the VA, dental care, mental health, housing and legal assistance, warm clothing, food, haircuts and more. Spearheaded by Andy Gilbert-Post 209.

Oct 19: Early Bird Dinner. Our Post's Annual Free Dinner for the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of Legionnaires that renewed their membership or joined before Oct 15th.

Oct 20: Sugar Plum Food and Mart. Post 209 manned a table to help promote the Legion. Don't feel that you can't help because you don't know enough about The American Legion or Post 209; you will be paired with experienced Legion Family members. Spearheaded by Jeraud Stuart.

Oct 27: Gun and Knife Show. Hosted at the Colorado Springs Event Center. Post 209 manned a table to help promote the Legion and to provide a recruitment opportunity. Spearheaded by Jeraud Stuart.

Oct 27: Healing Warriors. On the 4th Saturday each month from 9am to 1pm. This program utilizes acupuncture, craniosacral therapy and healing touch. It is Free to ALL Veterans and Active Duty, their Spouses, and Parents and no appointment is needed. The therapists are all registered, and they are all volunteers.

Oct 27: Boys State Meeting. Attended by Jay Bowen, Marvin Weaver Sr., and me. We received a briefing on where we're going and where we need to be, along with a back brief of the National Americanism Conference.

Oct 27: Halloween Party. Our annual Halloween party was a spooky good time for young and old! There was a costume contest for adult and children's categories, fun games to play, and plenty of treats, scary & sweet! Great turnout for the Halloween party. Lots of fun was had this year and lots of great costumes.

Oct 28: Stand Down 2nd Dinner. Our Auxiliary prepared and served the second dinner of the Transitional Housing Initiative (THI) for our Veterans and their family. Thanks to all the ladies that helped cook, prepare desserts and serve the dinner and thanks to the Post 209 ALR riders for providing security.

Nov 03: Veterans' Day Parade. Post 209 was well represented along with Posts 5, 38, 2009, 1948, District 7, Department, and National. We arrived around 9am and formed up around 9:50am to start our march at 10:00am, followed by our float. It was a little chilly and not too windy. Nice Day.

Nov 03: District 7 Fall Conference. Hosted by our Post and presided by the District 7 Commander and Staff. The Department Commander and Staff shared their goals and programs for the year.

Nov 04: Stand Down 3rd Dinner. Our Auxiliary prepared and served the third dinner of the Transitional Housing Initiative (THI) for our Veterans and their family.

Nov 08: Young Guns. Nine students received their Completion Certificates and two of them received Eagle Eye Awards for hitting a Bullseye from the standing position. Top Shot Awards were given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place during the class competition held last week. Good Job!

Nov 10: Membership Meeting and Flag Disposal Ceremony. We started at 9am with breakfast and the meeting at 10am. We had a guest speaker Jackie Armendariz from Senator Bennet's office on assistance programs and Phyllis Didleau in an authentic 1775 colonial costume telling us of the "Betsy Ross" story. The meeting adjourned and a "Flag Disposal Ceremony" was performed (9-30Gal trash bags full).

Nov 11: Honor Guard Schools Visits. Members of our Honor Guard presented the Colors on Veterans Day, Nov 11, at "R.J. Wasson Academy", "Steele Elementary School", "Coronado High School", and "James Madison Elementary School". In addition, other Post members attended the celebration at "William J. Palmer High School". Each school was very gracious and made us feel right at home. A BIG THANK YOU to the schools of Colorado Springs School District 11 from the men and women of Post 209!

Pictures of the events can be found on <http://Legion209.org>

If you have any pictures you would like to share for our 2018-19 yearbook, please send them to me:

EMAIL: ajcarter209@comcast.net TEXT: (603)913-3261

Please indicate what the event or occasion is, when, and who is in the picture(s).



AMERICAN LEGION POST 209

THE PREEMINENT VOICE FOR VETERANS • COLORADO SPRINGS, CO



WALK OF HONOR

Buy A Brick Fundraiser!

If you've attended our meetings over the past year, you may have heard us discuss plans for a new fundraising effort. 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 bricks are engraved using a hybrid method that combines both laser engraving and sandblasting. The engraving is then painted using the same paint used on tombstones so it's extremely durable. Here are the details/answers to questions we anticipate:

- **What Are We Having?** A Brick Fundraising Event
- **Why?** To Further Funding of our American Legion Programs and Offset Increasing Costs
- **What Size Are the Bricks?** We are offering 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 range from \$90 to \$200, depending on size, style and lettering desired. 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?** Prices range from \$250 to \$500, again depending on size, style and lettering.
- **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?** 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

Past Post Commander Jay Bowen

I have never been star-struck. At an early age, I guess I recognized entertainers and actors for who they were; people who chose the profession to entertain others. And I reserve the label of “hero” for those in my life who had a strong positive impact on me and others. My father is a great example of someone I apply the label of hero. The same goes for every Medal of Honor recipient I’ve had the privilege of meeting. But as a general rule I don’t consider an actor, musician, or sports figure a hero.

There are a few exceptions to the above. And I will never forget meeting someone I always considered a hero as well as a great entertainer; Roy Rogers.

It wasn’t long after I retired from the US Army that Jackie and I, her sister, and her sister’s husband went on a vacation to Branson, MO. For several years Branson has been known as “little Nashville,” a nickname given to them for the many music theaters owned and visited by country music stars.

The first morning we were there we asked the desk clerk to recommend a good breakfast place. The Quality Inn we stayed at didn’t serve breakfast so we found ourselves having to venture onto the “strip” for something to eat. The clerk recommended a restaurant that resembled an old mansion. He told us the food was very good, and it was frequented by many of the country stars visiting the town. I don’t remember the name of the restaurant, but chances are it has changed names since we were there anyway.

I do remember it was a place that served a good ole southern style breakfast. The decor fit the outside. It was set up with wooden tables and chairs, cloth table cloths and napkins, and there was a country feeling to the place. The walls were decorated with pictures of yesteryear, as well as some of the old west cowboys of the big screen and country stars who I’m guessing must have visited the restaurant and left behind an autographed photo.

After we were seated Jackie told me to look to my right. Sitting about three tables over was Roy, Dale Evans, Jeannie Pruitt and Carl Smith. For those reading this who don’t know these folks, Jeannie and Carl were country singers, Roy and wife Dale were country music stars as well as actors. Roy was considered the “King of the Cowboys.” He wore a white hat, rode Trigger, the “smartest horse alive,” and was followed by his trusty German Shepherd, Bullet.

From all accounts, Roy lived the life he portrayed on the screen. There was never any scandals associated with him or Dale. Apparently, he was a good father and a great role model for kids of all ages. And he was sitting 3 tables over.

Jackie and her sister kept trying to get me to go over to their table and talk with Roy. After all, this was a one in a million opportunity for me to come face-to-face with one of my heroes. I told them I was not going to just walk over there for a couple of reasons. One, I didn’t want to bother them while they were eating and enjoying each other’s company. And two, I was sitting between them and the exit. I knew he would have to walk by me to leave. So I waited.

After just a short while, they all got up and headed to the door. As Roy approached, I stood up. He looked me square in the eyes and smiled. I said something to the effect that I just wanted to shake his hand because I had been such a fan my entire life. Roy took my hand and thanked me and we struck up a conversation. He acted like he was in no rush to leave and talked with me as if we had known each other forever. I don’t even know where the others he was dining with went, I was wrapped up in this once in a lifetime visit with a great American.

There were no pictures taken although I’m certain he would not have minded. I didn’t need a picture to capture that memory. This man of 5’6” or 5’7” provided me a larger than life encounter that will stay tucked away in my memory forever.

In my mind, there were quite a few like him from that era, those who real life actions mimicked their character on screen. Some of those for me was John Wayne, Jimmy Stewart, Red Skelton, and Lou Gehrig. How sad that entertainers and sports figures today have taken a different approach. They may be very good at what they do, but for them it’s just a job. But that’s okay, I have plenty of heroes to try and emulate. And interestingly enough, none of them perform. They guide, lead, and live a life of service to others.



Post Officers 2018-2019

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Lino Calica	719-963-0956
Sr. Vice Cdr	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Jr. Vice Cdr	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasin-ski	719-359-6356
Adjutant	Marvin Weaver, Jr.	719-244-3535
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Chaplain	Paul R. Darrow	719-237-4461
Sergeant-at-Arms	Joe Schmidt	651-328-9029
Historian	Art "AJ" Carter	603-913-3261
Post Exec. Cmtee	Bill Burd	719-330-1279
Service Officer	Lyle Hagelberg	719-231-2364
Judge Advocate	Marvin Weaver, Sr.	719-638-4763
Club Manager	Art Kimbrel	719-339-4610
Honor Guard Capt.	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177



ALR Officers 2018-2019

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Grady Mitchell	719-201-3353
Vice President	Steve Hayes	719-494-7166
Secretary	Amy Mitchell	719-321-8291
Treasurer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sgt-At-Arms	Tim McDowell	719-510-9907
Road Captain	John Hanchek	719-648-5415



Auxiliary Officers 2018-2019

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Cathy Barger	719-290-3163
Vice President	Donna Rae Smith	815-973-0073
Secretary	Pat Weaver	719-638-4763
Treasurer	Kellie Hayes	719-494-7167
Chaplain	Jackie Burd	719-590-6615
Sergeant-At-Arms	Kris Floyd	719-308-2150
Historian	Nancy LaFayette	719-594-6806



Sons of The American Legion 2018-2019

Office	Name	Telephone
Commander	Stan "Sgt. Ski" Krasinski	719-359-6356
Vice Commander	Eric Testorff	719-510-4177
Adjutant	Steve P. Cox	970-580-8191
Finance Officer	Rusty Bower	719-649-0654
Sergeant-at-Arms	Stanten Krasinski	719-359-6356
Chaplain	Shelten Krasinski	719-359-6356
Historian	Vacant	
Squadron Advisor	Ken Taylor	719-761-4047

Calendar of Events (see back page for December)

January 2019

- 4th; Hamdogger Nite
- 10th; Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
- 11th; Auxiliary Dinner, **(RSVP Required!)** 6:00pm **(\$9.00)**
- 12th; Breakfast, 9:00am
- 12th; Legion/Aux. General Membership Meeting, 10:00am
- 17th; Fundraising Committee Meeting, 7:00pm
- 18th; Steak Night, **(RSVP Required!)**, 6:00pm, **(\$14.50)**
- 21st; ALR Executive Board Meeting, 6:00pm
- 22th; ALR Monthly Meeting, 6:30pm, Social Hour, 5:30pm
- 22th; SAL Monthly Meeting, 5:45pm
- 24th-27th; Department of Colorado Mid-Year Conference
- 25th; Chef's Choice, 6:00pm, **(RSVP Required!)**, **(\$10.50)**

February 2019

- 1st; Hamdogger Nite
- 7th; Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30pm
- 8th; ALR Dinner, **(RSVP Required!)** 6:00pm **(\$9.00)**
- 9th; Breakfast, 9:00am
- 9th; Legion/Aux. General Membership Meeting, 10:00am
- 15th; Steak Night, **(RSVP Required!)**, 6:00pm, **(\$14.50)**
- 18th; ALR Executive Board Meeting, 6:00pm
- 19th; ALR Monthly Meeting, 6:30pm, Social Hour, 5:30pm
- 19th; SAL Monthly Meeting, 5:45pm
- 24th-27th; Department of Colorado Mid-Year Conference
- 21st; Fundraising Committee Meeting, 7:00pm
- 22th; Chef's Choice, 6:00pm, **(RSVP Required!)**, **(\$10.50)**

December 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 DMS Event - Post 38 9:00am - 5:00pm
2 DMS Event - Post 209 12:00pm - 5:00pm	3	4	5	6 Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm	7 Price Varies with order Hamdogger 6:00pm	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 \$9.00 Meal ALR Dinner - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	15 Post 209 Christmas Party!
16	17	18	19	20	21 \$14.50 Meal Steak Night! - 6:00pm RSVP Required!	22
23	24	25 Christmas Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29
30	31	Notes: Our Monthly Legion/Auxiliary/SAL/Riders meetings are cancelled for December Chef's Choice is cancelled for December				



Merry
Christmas
Everyone!

