

The Centennial

VOLUME IX EDITION 12

DECEMBER 2019



AMERICAN LEGION NEAL THOMAS JR. CENTENNIAL POST 209

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.LEGION209.ORG

MEET YOUR 2019 - 2020 OFFICERS!!

2019-2020 American Legion Post 209 Officers

Commander: Lino Calica	Finance Officer: Mike Barger	Executive Committeeman: Marvin Weaver Jr.
Sr. Vice Commander: Joseph Schmidt	Chaplain: Stan Hamamoto	Judge Advocate: Marvin Weaver Sr.
Jr. Vice Commander: Desiree Guerra	Historian: Mike Wescott	Service Officer: Art Carter
Adjutant: Jerry Hopper	Sgt At Arms: Sarah Tobin	Club Manager: Art Kimbrel

2019-2020 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 209 Officers

President: Cathy Barger	Secretary: Pat Weaver	Chaplain: Madelyne "Hooty" Newborn
Vice President: Donna Testorff	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes	Historian: Royce Hopper
	Sgt At Arms: Kris Floyd	

2019-2020 Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Officers

Commander: Eric Testorff	Adjutant: Ken Taylor	Sgt At Arms: Bob Ingram
Sr. Vice Commander: Michael Wescott	Chaplain: Steve Cox	Immediate Past Commander: Stan Krasinski
Jr. Vice Commander: Richard Pecoraro	Historian: Evan Schwartzbart	

2019-2020 American Legion Riders Post 209 Officers

President: Steve Hayes	Treasurer: Kellie Hayes	Communications: Wade Newborn
Vice President: Tim McDowell	Road Captain: John Hanchek	Historian: Andrew Pearson
Secretary: Cathy Barger	Sgt At Arms: Mark Griffin	Logistics: Mike Sylvester
	Pastor: John Coppedge	

2019-2020 Amateur Radio Club Officers

President: Jon Davis K0YOV	Vice President: George Johnson KE0ALQ
Secretary: Harvey LeCato W1JU	Treasurer: Henry Russell KCONAJ
Director: Jim Harris WOEM	

For God & Country...



We associate ourselves together...

FROM THE DESK & MIND OF THE COMMANDER

What an exciting and active year we have had at Post 209. There were many projects and fundraisers which have been successfully completed, starting with the new windows and light replacements to lower our utilities bill, purchasing a new shed, raising funds for Boys State and Scouting, and the many events that the Auxiliary ladies do for the children and families, to list just some of the many projects and many more to come. There are no words that I can use to express my gratitude for the members and families of Post 209 who have volunteered their time, hard work and dedication in making our programs victorious. That includes our entire Legion family of **Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, the Legion Riders and The American Legion Amateur Radio Club**. I want to thank my executive team for the exceptional leadership in leading Post 209 in the right direction. My goal for the leadership team was to work together as one unit in helping our Veterans and their families who are in need of food, shelter, clothing, and assistance in their finances, or just to be there to listen to their stories. You have all gone over and beyond my expectations, which made my job easy.

I would like to take this time to also **WELCOME** all the new members and their families who have joined or transferred to the Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 Legion family. Thank you all for your service. Fiscal year 2020 membership program is going strong for Post 209, the members and their families who work hard and diligently in recruiting members for the different programs, through their efforts we have been successful in reaching The American Legion Department of Colorado membership goal. Magnificent job everyone.

As I started off a young leader, I was very nervous and scared to the bone. I said to myself, "What have I gotten myself into?" I didn't know coconuts about The American Legion. You see I was introduced to The American Legion from my granddaughter, Khianna Calica, who lived in Marysville, Washington Auxiliary Unit 181 from Post 181 who sent her to Girl State, then Girl Nation, where she became the Washington state representative to go to Washington DC. Greg Smith was the Commander at that time, and he asked if I would consider serving. I said sure. As stated earlier, I was nervous on what to do, but the Post 209 leadership instilled in me that the leadership team "**Will Not Let You FAIL!**" So, don't be afraid to step up to the plate and join the leadership team or volunteer to assist in the multiple programs. We are always searching for new leaders with new ideas in helping our Veterans.

There will be **No December Meetings**. The next Executive Committee meeting will be January 9, 2020. The general membership meeting will be on January 11, 2020.

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



Lino Calica
Post Commander
S.A.L.T. – Serving and Learning Together





FROM THE DESK OF THE SR VICE COMMANDER

Change is necessary for the growth of any organization, but it's the changes we make that define the future direction of the organization. The American Legion for over one hundred years now has been able to adapt to that change and overcome obstacles as they arise. I have spent a lot of time wondering what the next 25 years looks like for our Post. I dream of a Post that is exceeding 7,000 members and that we are the primary organization for all veteran support in the Colorado Springs area. Then reality hits me, how do we even get there? How do

we become the focal point of the veteran community? Illusions of grandeur I tell myself, is it even possible to be a Post that works every program of the American Legion? I realize it is; we are already halfway there. We are working more programs than any other Post in the area. We have become the model that other Posts wish to emulate. In order to expand though, we must face the facts that change is upon us. The way in which our Post reaches out to grow membership needs to change from just taking their money and never seeing them again, to involving everyone who walks through the doors. We must find their passion for service and what their gifts are. We need to invite all members into the Post to remind them this is their home, and that they don't need some title or status to enjoy their Post. Although I may be bias, in my travels around the district, state, and country to other Posts I see us as the model to how an American Legion Post should be ran, but we need you, the member to get involved and help us contribute to the community. The American Legion exists to serve the community, state, and nation. We are here to support in times of need and celebrate in times of joy. Your membership helps us continue to fight for your rights here in the city and all the way to Washington D.C. For those who are members I ask that you come home, come share in fellowship and comradery with other veterans. For those who haven't renewed, or even joined, come find your home in the American Legion.

Joseph A. Schmidt
Post Sr. Vice Commander



The world is at peace and war hasn't plagued any nation in over one hundred years. There is one war-time era veteran still alive. He lives in solitude, but the media wants to interview him and talk about being the last living veteran on Veteran's Day. While being interviewed the reporter asks, "If there are no living veterans, to whom will we commemorate this day?" With a short reply the veteran simply says, "To silence." Puzzled, the reporter asks, "To Silence?" "Yes, to silence" the veteran replies. To the silence that no wife, mother, or child shall bare the burdens of war. The silence that tears will no longer fall for any family because their loved ones didn't make it home. The silence of the rifles and cannons that fire the volleys of rounds each time a soldier dies in combat. The silence of the bugle, that it never plays Taps over a young soldier's grave again. A silence that is made up of the hundreds of thousands of soldiers who gave their lives for this very reason. The reporter, stunned by the response, only responds with, "To silence." Before the reporter leaves, he asks, "Is there anything else?" The veteran says, "Although my time on this earth is coming to an end, here's to the silence of peace we experience from all those who came before me and sacrificed their lives for something they will never get to enjoy. Each November 11th this world will hear the sound of what it truly means to be free; Silence."





FROM THE DESK OF THE POST JR VICE COMMANDER

There have been a lot of exciting developments within our Department and Organization the past couple of months. And we would be remiss as the leadership of your Post to not inform you.

I would like to start by congratulating all of our members who have been working very hard on stopping the membership slide. As of today, we are over 1400 members to the good from where we were this time last year at the Department level. Congratulations membership warriors! Keep up the good work.

Next, we had two delegates of The Department of Colorado graduate from National American Legion College this year. District 6 Commander Annette Johnson and me. It was a lot of hard work and long hours and we are proud to have been chosen to attend this year. I would encourage anyone who wants to go, to apply. It is well worth it!

Our Commander in Chief signed into law the POW/MIA Flag Act, which will require the POW/MIA Flag to be displayed alongside the American Flag to honor all of our POW/MIA's. As most of you should know, the creator of this iconic flag is from right here in Colorado and was a member of American Legion Post 38 in Fountain.

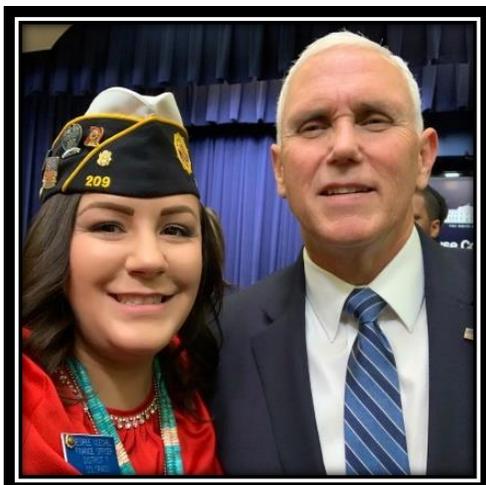


In Washington DC at our Headquarters Office, our National Legislative Director Melissa Bryant, has been hard at work for all of us. She recently testified before Congress on November 20th on H.R. 3495, the "Improve Well-Being for Veterans Act," a grant program that will help aid in the veteran suicide crisis in the United States. She is a champion for our veterans, and she is definitely no stranger to testifying before Congress. We are confident that this matter will be taken seriously, and the grant program will be approved.

Another good thing to mention in Washington DC is I was deeply humbled and honored to have been asked to attend a conference at The White House by our National Commander Bill Oxford and the Executive Director of our Washington DC Office Louis Celli.



It was The White House Conference on Contemporary Native American Veterans. The focus on this conference was how we can assist in bettering the lives of Native American veterans who still currently live on the reservations. I grew up on the reservation, and the resources there are very limited. It is barren, rural land and the luxuries we have here are nowhere near what the people there have. To compare it to a third world country would be an understatement. In most cases, veterans who live there are not made aware they are entitled to compensation for their injuries due to service. And if by chance they are knowledgeable and have the privilege to get care from the VA, they have to travel very long distances to get



to one. Eight or more hours. This is unacceptable. There were a lot of good policies that the Trump Administration is currently working on and a lot of good information that will help correct this issue. After all, a veteran is a veteran, right? We had a surprise visit from The Vice President of The United States, Mike Pence. He is truly an amazing person and really cares for the people of this country. All in all, that experience was something that will be cherished forever. It was an honor to have been in the room with fellow Akechetas, or in the Dakota Sioux language, Warriors. Generations of people who have called this land home long before western civilization, and arguably the most patriotic people I have ever had the privilege of knowing. I am looking forward to working more with this administration to help our Native American veterans and all veterans.

If any of you would like more information about the legislation or policies I have discussed, please reach out and I will make sure you get information. I feel it is only fair that you know that our National Organization is working hard for you. You may not see it because they aren't here, but I can promise you they are making big things happen for you every day. And it is because of you they are able to do so. The more members we have the more powerful our voice is before Congress.

2019 was a year with many challenges and changes. We all know that change is necessary for growth. We are slowly growing into a different season of life in our organization. It is painful at times, but necessary. Let's continue to work together to help The American Legion continue its great legacy of helping veterans, their families and its communities. I pray you all have blessed and Merry Christmas.

Desire'e E. Noechel
Post Jr. Vice Commander





FROM THE DESK OF THE POST FINANCE OFFICER

Here we are, coming ever closer to the end of another calendar year. It's been a productive year, and a year in which we had some pitfalls, but we've overcome them. I would like to take this time to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you all enjoy this time of year with family and keep our brothers and sisters in arms in your thoughts and prayers while they continue to serve and keep this nation safe.

For the month of October, we ended in the red \$249, which isn't bad when you look at what we ended up having to spend that month. We are still sitting well financially since we now have a budget. The big dollar item that was purchased was the Honor Guard replacement AR-15 style rifles from the old M1 Garand's. The old ones were built in 1942 and they've had issues when it comes to firing them, from multiple misfires to jamming. The price tag for 7 for the new rifles was \$3850. We did a price comparison with multiple vendors and was able to get that price down from over \$4200 to what we spent. Kudos goes out to Eric Testorff, Mike Wescott, Joel Haas and the Commander for working through these details to keep the costs down. We were also fortunate that the Pikes Peak Veterans Honor Guard had some money set aside from donations from other VSO's to help keep the Post cost down. These rifles will carry us into the future for quite some time.

I keep reviewing our utility bill monthly to see where we stand on the electric usage since we replaced all the lights and windows throughout the Post, and I'm happy to report that our usage has been going down dramatically. In July we were sitting at a little over \$700 just for electric, and our November electric bill was just a little over \$300, so the adjustments we've made appear to be working. I will keep you all in the loop as we move forward in the coming months regarding our utility usage.

Mike Barger
Post Finance Officer



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO
SOLDIERS EVERYWHERE
WHO CAN'T BE WITH
THEIR FAMILIES**





FROM THE DESK OF THE POST SERVICE OFFICE

I've been asked by a friend in the VFW to inform the Legion members that there is a "Parkinson's Support Group" in Colorado Springs and they are affiliated with the "Colorado Parkinson Foundation".

If you or someone you know has this Disease and are interested in more information call (719) 884-0103.

(P A R K I N S O N ' S)

Max Capacity Physical Therapy

Challenge. Change. Capacity

Emily Moncheski, neuro physical therapist, Parkinson's specialist

Now accepting Medicare

Areas of treatment include:

Gait

Balance

Dystonia

Fine motor function

Posture

Dual task training

and

Offering Freezing Intensives

Parkinson's PWR BootCamp

Power Punch Boxing

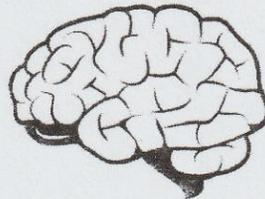
Office in southwest Colorado Springs. Home visits also available.

Fax: 719-284-4624

Phone: 719-213-3996

"Emily is a major factor in assisting me in my fight against Parkinson's"- Mary R.

"I deal with a lot of freezing and Emily worked with me to prepare for a trip. We worked on every thing that could be a problem for this trip. And I only fell once in the eight days we were gone. I was used to falling several times a day!!!"- Carla H.



Art "AJ" Carter
Post Service Officer





FROM THE DESK OF THE POST ADJUTANT

Well, this year is about over and if you have not renewed your American Legion membership yet, consider making an early new year resolution to "Git-R-Done." Department is still holding a \$100.00 drawing each membership milestone for newly recruited members and the person who recruits them. Get your name in the drawing!

Some of the events your Post participated in over the past month included: the Colorado Springs Veterans Day Parade, (I rode aboard a semi-trailer provided by Rick Ausmus, and even though the cold kept a lot of folks indoors, we had a great turnout; our Post 209 ALR and Auxiliary provided meals to some homeless Veterans and their family at the Elegante Hotel on Oct.20th, Oct.27th, Nov.3rd and Nov.11th in support of the THI (Transitional Housing Initiative); and we supported the Veterans Day Ceremony at Memorial Park, hosted by the Canadian Armed Forces this year.

Coming up in December:

Dec. 7: Department Commander's Snow-Ball Event- Social 4:30-6:00 pm, Dinner 6:00-7:00 pm, Dancing 7:00-? **All proceeds going to The Veterans Assistance Fund.**

Dec. 14: Wreaths Across America - Beginning at 10:00 am at Pikes Peak National Cemetery and Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Come out and lend a hand placing wreaths on Veterans graves at the cemetery of your choice.

Dec. 14: Annual Post 209 Christmas Party - 3:00-5:00pm. It is rumored that a special white bearded man will make an appearance.

It's What We Do!!

Jerry Hopper
Post Adjutant





FROM COLORADO BOYS STATE

Boys State is a State Government Educational program designed to mirror the structuring and operations of our state government. **It is designed for High School Students who have completed their Junior year of high school and have at least one semester remaining.** It also will help develop leadership skills and character building. It is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students in the nation. A hands-on program, where each boy becomes a part of the operation in “Local, County and State Governments.” Boys participating in “Colorado Boys State” can receive up to 4 college credits and be eligible for several scholarships. Interested students should contact their counselor(s), principle, JROTC Senior Instructor or reach out to a local American Legion Post.

At Boys State, young men are exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and responsibilities of a US citizen. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by elected and appointed officials duly placed in office by citizens of their respective Boys State city.

Colorado American Legion Boys State will be conducted May 30 through June 4, 2020 on the college campus of the “University of Colorado – Colorado Springs” (UCCS). During the weeklong program the boys are assigned to cities, counties and a fictitious political party. They create their party platform, conduct party conventions, campaign for office, and nominate and elect officials within the city, county and state levels to form their 51st state.

Tuition cost is paid for by The American Legion through donations received from a variety of sources **(the student or parents pay nothing)**. Participants are housed in the campus dormitories and all activities are conducted on the UCCS campus. The Boys State staff also resides in the dormitories for supervision.

Students will review knowledge already acquired concerning the political machinery of state and local governments and will also find themselves performing the same functions as real office holders in the everyday world, even running for office. Delegates learn the duties of various city, county and state officials, and introduce and argue bills in their own legislature. Each citizen will have the opportunity to learn for himself that his government is exactly what he makes it.

The entire program is non-partisan. At Boys State’s the “political parties” are called “Nationalist” and “Federalist.” In this way, we try to assure a democratic government in its purist sense. The Party Chairman and Party Executive Director are charged with the duty of helping his respective party develop a platform, nominate capable candidates, and ensure his party’s platform is realized and its candidates elected. **During the week, two boys will be elected US Senators and will represent Colorado at Boys Nation in Washington, DC. Parents are welcome and encouraged to visit, just call ahead.**

Art “AG” Carter
Boys State Coordinator





AMERICAN LEGION POST 209 EXPANDS ITS REACH

The American Legion Amateur Radio Club at Colorado Post 209 held a special event station on Nov 9th in honor of Veterans Day. Four members participated and several Post visitors viewed the operations. The station was operated on the air for about four hours. We were able to log 12 contacts with six voice and six digital contacts. Voice contacts were within the USA. Digital contacts consisted of two contacts in Japan, one each in Brazil and Lithuania (Eastern Europe) and two in the USA. Maximum contact distance was over 5600 miles.

Our thanks go to a Post member who donated funds for pizza to feed the operators. To view pictures of the Special Event Station, go to Facebook and search for TALARC209.

For more information on this Post 209 activity contact:

Club Secretary, Harvey LeCato

Phone: (719) 331-1212

Email: mbca@comcast.net

Calendar Events

12 December; 7:00pm – Post Radio Club General Membership Meeting.



Pictured L/R; Harold Ulrich, Harvey LeCato, George Johnson



Proud possessors of...



a priceless heritage...



FROM THE DESK OF THE SAL COMMANDER

The last time a statewide SAL event was held on the Western Slope was Grand Junction in June of 2012. But events came back west on November 16, 2019 when Sons of the American Legion Squadron 209 Commander, Eric Testorff and Senior Vice Commander Michael Wescott traveled to Gunnison for the Fall Conference of the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Colorado.

Detachment and Squadron representatives conducted business in the historic American Legion Post 54 building on the grounds of American Legion Park, which was

donated to the citizens of Gunnison in 1919, shortly after the American Legion was formed. Pictured are Detachment of Colorado Commander, Nick Arceo and Detachment Adjutant Scott Garrett.

That evening, the Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons of Post 54 hosted the Colorado Sons of the American Legion annual Awards Dinner at the Gunnison Elks Lodge. The dinner was a big success, featuring wonderful food, warm hospitality by the local Elks, and some great festivities including raffles and of course, the Colorado SAL Awards.



Squadron 209 came away with awards for Veterans Assistance & Rehabilitation, Americanism, Children & Youth, and last but not least, the 2018-2019 Jo D. Roe Americanism Award.

Many thanks go to Post 54 in Gunnison for such wonderful hospitality. We will see you next time for the Midyear Conference in January at the Hotel Elegante in Colorado Springs.

Eric Testorff
SAL Squadron Commander





In the Spirit of Service and Not Self...

FROM THE DESK OF THE UNIT PRESIDENT

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. As we celebrate the Christmas Season, from my family to yours, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I want to take this time to welcome all the new members and their families who have joined or transferred to the Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post/Auxiliary Unit 209 Family, especially the newest male members of our Auxiliary Unit.

A big thank you from me and the Auxiliary Officers goes out to you all that have stepped up in 2019 and volunteered their time to the Post.

This past year our Auxiliary Unit has been active in supporting our various programs and community. Our Auxiliary family has supported the following activities: the McCandless Veteran's nursing home Ice Cream Social; the ALR Post 209 Poker run; All Activities Day at the Pueblo Veterans Nursing Home; and the Homeless Veteran's Coalition Stand-down (and we prepared 4 Sunday dinner meals for The Transitional Housing Initiative (THI) Program for the Homeless Veterans and their families staying at the Hotel Elegante), with Post 209 ALR providing the security for this event. I also want to thank those volunteers that helped with cooking and serving the meals and those who provided desserts for the THI Dinners.

We participated in the annual Veterans Day Parade in downtown Colorado Springs, along with members from the Department of Colorado, as well as Department Commander Dean Noechel.

The one of a kind Neal Thomas Jr. Centennial Post 209 Christmas Ornaments and The Legion Family Cookbook are still available. These make some great gifts. You can purchase the ornament or cookbook for \$15.00 each.

Thanks to all of those that supported the Butter Braid sales. We had a very successful fundraiser with your help.

We are doing the Toys for Tots program again this year. Help Toys for Tots "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 Celestina Barnes, Doris Carroll, Cassandra Eagen, Chris Kinnard, Sharon Rawson, Carolyn Schubert, Melia Palaroan and Janet Schwarzbart. Make sure to wish these ladies Happy Birthday when you see them.



HO! HO! HO! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

On Dec 14th from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. we will have our annual Christmas party instead of our monthly meeting. Rumor has it a special guest will be making an appearance; I hope to see you there.

It will be a potluck 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, 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. 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 past year.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly!

Cathy Barger
Unit President





BRINGING A LITTLE SOUTH TO THE WEST

You're going to find this hard to believe, but I was not a good person as a teenager. You're probably thinkin' I'm makin' this up, but it's true. When I was 14-16, I was pretty ugly.

At that age I came to the realization my parents were pretty stupid and I was the smartest person in my family, even though my grades suggested otherwise. In reality, I was no doubt smarter than Bubba (brother Eddie), but not my two sisters or my parents, which I learned much later in life. But back then I was convinced the whole world was crazy, present company excluded.

I think I was 15 when Bubba ran away from home. He and our next-door neighbor who was my brother's age decided they wanted to run off from Memphis and go to Florida. So, one day they packed a few belongings into a small tote bag, hit the road and stuck out their thumb. In those days, we didn't worry too much about serial killers or child molesters. They were out there, but we didn't hear about them as much as you do today.

When we realized they were gone, Dad did the responsible thing and called the cops. They came out and took a report; age, height, clothes they wore the last time we saw them, all the vitals. I vividly remember Dad making a comment to the Police during the report, "I probably shouldn't say this in front of him, but I thought Jay would run away before Eddie." Wow! Really? Even though that comment was well deserved, it hurt. In retrospect, it wasn't an indictment against me personally, but about my attitude. Anyway, after about a week they got homesick (read that as broke) and called home. Dad asked where they were and then told them to hitchhike their way up to Atlanta and to our older sister's house. Mom and Dad would drive down there and pick them up. He did, and they did, and he came back home with about a 2-week grounding and a haircut. I never forgot that comment Dad made to the Police. And this was during that period when I was not a pleasant person to be around, unless you were in my circle. So, one year later, I decided to hit the road.

But unlike Bubba, I went alone and didn't leave town. I had a buddy who lived across town and I went to his house. I don't remember much about the one week I spent at his house other than calling my Mom to let her know I was safe. That was back in the day before caller ID, pagers, and cell phones so she didn't know where I was when I made the call.

I remember she pleaded with me to come home and I told her how upset I was over Dad's comment. I used that as the excuse, but truth is I would have found another reason for leaving if he hadn't made that comment. I was just that big a jerk.

Mom told me if I would come home, she would take me with her to Omaha. She had recently been diagnosed with many, many allergies and her doctor advised her to find a drier climate. For some reason, she wanted to go to Omaha. Having never been there, I thought it might be cool, so I came home. After all, I was broke by then also.

Mom did wind up going to Omaha for about 30 days, I think. She went out there to see what the job market was like and to price houses. Dad stayed in Memphis working. I don't remember if she asked me to go with her, but I don't think I would have wanted to go even if she asked. I had my circle of friends and didn't want to leave. And by that time, Dad and I were on pretty good terms, or as good as a 16-year-old can have with his Dad.

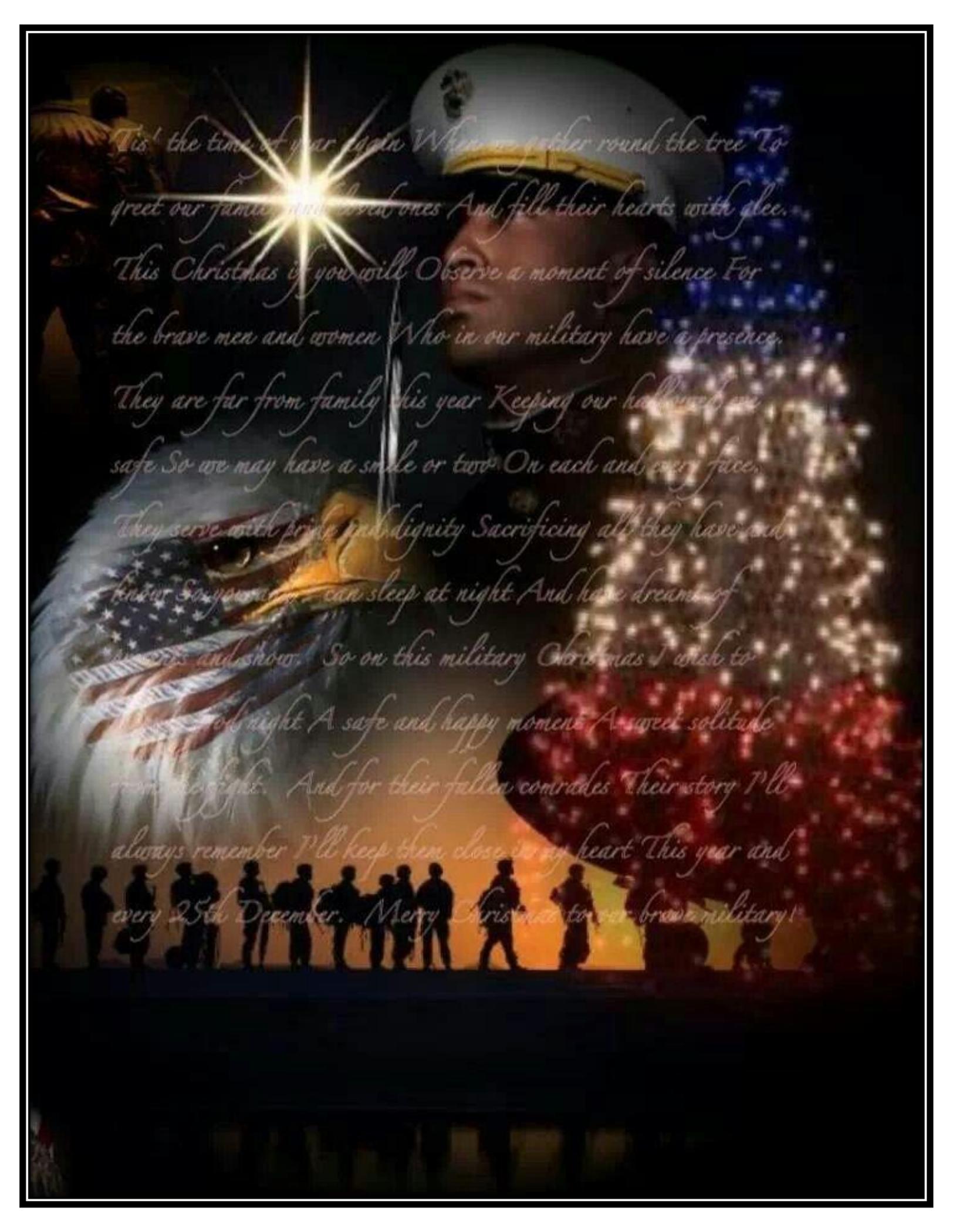
When I came back home, Dad pronounced judgement with his favorite punishment (other than the occasional whipping), grounded until I'm 21 and I had to go get a haircut. You need to understand when Dad said, "Go get a haircut" it wasn't a trim. He knew how much I loved my hair. After all, it was the 60's. Getting a crew cut hurt more than a whipping...and it lasted a lot longer. Since that time, I have learned the only difference between a good haircut and a bad one is about 3 days.

Oh, and the "you're grounded until you're 21" normally lasted about 5 days. I'm certain the reason for that is they preferred me out of the house rather than in it. Let me spread my joyful attitude somewhere else.

I think back to those days and wonder how I made it to 21. It wasn't until I had kids of my own that I realized how smart Mom and Dad really were. And the old saying that your kids will give you ten-fold over what you gave your parents is true. Man, I'm glad we all survived our boys' teenage years. Lastly, I will leave you with this, grandkids are your gift from God for not killing your kids when they were teenagers. And it really is worth the wait.

Jay Bowen
Past Post Commander





*'Tis' the time of year again When we gather round the tree To
greet our family and loved ones And fill their hearts with glee.
This Christmas if you will Observe a moment of silence For
the brave men and women Who in our military have a presence.
They are far from family this year Keeping our hallways
safe So we may have a smile or two On each and every face.
They serve with pride and dignity Sacrificing all they have and
know So you and I can sleep at night And have dreams of
peace and snow. So on this military Christmas I wish to
observe a quiet night A safe and happy moment A sweet solitude
from the night. And for their fallen comrades Their story I'll
always remember I'll keep them close in my heart This year and
every 25th December. Merry Christmas to our brave military!*



December 2019						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 DMS Post 209, Post 38, Post 209	7 Snowball Fundraiser 4:30pm 
8 DMS Post 209	9 Post Honor Gd. Training 6:00pm 	10	11	12 TALARC General Membership Meeting 7:00pm 	13	14 Post Christmas Party! 3:00pm    
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Winter Solstice
22	23	24	25 Christmas Merry Christmas!	26	27	28
29	30	31	Notes:			

JUST A REMINDER: THERE WILL BE NO FRIDAY DINNERS IN DECEMBER.