

The Centennial



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From the Desk and Mind of the Commander

Jay Bowen

I know you've heard the expression, "That's the exception rather than the rule." Are you the exception or the rule? You're probably thinking, "I don't want to be the exception! They're strange." And in some cases, I agree. But before you answer that question consider this, where would we be today if there were no exceptions to the rule?

Look back across history at some of the greatest, bravest and brightest men and women. Consider Christopher Columbus, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Lewis and Clark, Henry Ford, and John Kennedy, to name just a few. In their day, they would have definitely been labeled as "the exception." But do you realize that had they been the "rule" we probably would not have a unified USA, women would not be able to vote, there would not have been any expansion to the West, no automobile in America, no civil rights movement, and no satellites or exploration of the moon. At the very least, all of these would have been pushed back several years. These people and thousands more like them took a stand to be different, to be "the exception."

Don't misunderstand, it is not always good to be the exception. I firmly believe all murderers, especially serial killers are the exception (and thank God for that). I also believe whoever created and continues to dream up "Reality Shows" are the exception. To even label most of these "reality" is so far from being real and/or mainstream they insult the intelligence of anyone watching and result in wasting an hour each evening of the precious time we have to spend on this earth. So maybe the people who watch those programs are also the exception. Hmmm?



I would submit to you that it takes "the exception" to move us forward. Anyone who invents, innovates, or takes a chance is an exception. We even refer to some of those folks as exceptional people. Different, yes; exceptional, absolutely! In fact, I believe the two terms to be synonymous in this context. You cannot be one without also being the other.

You can't be exceptional if you're not willing to embrace being different. And change cannot occur from everyone being "the rule." The exception in what we do creates the opportunity for new things to be invented and to move forward. We have been blessed by Post Commanders and other leaders who refuse to be "the rule." Look at where we've been, where we are today and all the plans we have for the future of our Post. We would not be in our Post home if our leadership was the rule. And you cannot grow unless you have people willing to be the exception.

By the way, it is a lot more fun and exciting being the exception.

So, are you the exception or the rule? If you are not the exception, why not? It's not too late to change. If you are the exception, let me know. We could use you to help us create and live the dream.

For God and Country,

Jay





Auxiliary President Jackie Bowen

Welcome to our newest Junior member, Melinda Rivera. We met the Department's goal of 55% for October. Keep up the good work Ladies.

All Patients Day in Pueblo was very rewarding. Those of us that attended almost got blown away but we fought



the wind and enjoyed spending time with the Veterans. There were a total of 33 booths. Thank you to those that helped man our booth; Mark & Pam Krzczowski, John & Mary Grier, Linda O'Riley, Neal & Lynn Thomas,



Norm Moyer, and Jay.

Veterans Day is November 11th. Please wear your Poppies. If you don't have one, let us know and we can get one for you. For those of you that don't know the history of the poppy, I've provided a short history taken from the American Legion National Auxiliary web site. In 1923, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion Family in memory of the Soldiers who fought on the battlefields during World War I. The poppy was the subject of the famous wartime poem "In Flanders Fields" by Lt. Col. John McCrae, M.D. In part, the poem reads, "In Flanders Fields the poppies blow, Between the crosses row on row..." The image of the poppy as a memorial flower to the war dead can be traced to a single individual beginning in November 1918. Ms. Moina Michael bought a bouquet of poppies and handed them to businessmen where she worked. She asked them to wear the poppy as a tribute to the fallen.

Serving Our Veterans Proudly,



Thoughts From Marion

Our October meeting opened with a prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and the Preamble to the Constitution promptly at 10:00 a.m. The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved.

Linda O'Riley reported our membership as of October 1st was at 70%. Our Auxiliary has the highest percentage ratings in the District.

A brief report was presented by Pam Krzczowski on the progress of Girls State. She stated she is just now getting started in getting around to the schools. She will have more to report next time.

Due to the weather and illness, our Treasurer was not present to give a financial report.

We learned that a person can support our Boys Scout Packs buy donating a sum of \$30.00 or \$50.00 to buy Popcorn for the military overseas. The Boy Scouts will send the popcorn directly to the troops. Lynn Thomas made a motion to donate \$50.00 from the Auxiliary to send popcorn to our troops overseas. The motion was carried.

There are several women taking part in making helmet liners for our overseas troops. Lynn Thomas made a suggestion that the women make one out of every four caps for the men at Crawford House. The yarn for the men at Crawford House can be acrylic and different colors than you make for the troops. Now with winter coming, the caps would be something they could use. If you would like more information, please phone Lynn Thomas at (719) 392-1510.

Last month one package was sent to Afghanistan with 19 helmet liners and one can of creamer. 19 limb covers were sent to Bethesda Hospital. We received a very nice thank you letter from the American Red Cross for the August package that was sent. They greatly appreciate each package they receive. Thought for the month: If anyone speaks evil of you, live that none will believe it.





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

Web Site: www.americanlegioncoloradosprings.org



Auxiliary Officers 2010-2011

Office	Name	Telephone
President	Jackie Bowen	719-574-1223
Vice President	Linda O'Riley	719-599-3818
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

3 Nov	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30 pm
4 Nov	Hamdogger Wingding Dinner 6:30 pm
5 Nov	Veterans Day Parade 8:30 am Assembly Time Army vs Air Force on the Big Screen
8 Nov	VA Information Day — Denver
10 Nov	Marine Birthday Celebration 6:30 pm
11 Nov	Veterans Day
12 Nov	Breakfast 9:00 am Meetings 10:00 am
18 Nov	Steak Night 6:30 pm
19 Nov	District 7 Fall Conference 11:00 am At Post 209
1 Dec	Post Executive Committee Mtg 6:30 pm
2 Dec	Hamdogger Wingding dinner 6:30 pm
10 Dec	No Breakfast No Meeting Christmas Party starting at 6:00 pm
16 Dec	Steak Night 6:30 pm
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 P.M.
14 Jan	Breakfast 9:00 am Meetings 10:00 am
27-29 Jan	Dept Mid Year Conference—Longmont



MARINE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

You are invited to the celebration of the MARINE BIRTHDAY which is Thursday, 10 November beginning at 6:30 P.M. Dinner will be choice of Roast Beef or Turkey for \$ 10.00 per person. Please call Jackie Bowen 719-574-1223 or Lynn Thomas 719-439-6268 with your reservation.

New - National Personnel Records Center

The National Archives and Records Administration dedicated its new National Personnel Records Center (NRPC) in St. Louis this past October 15th. This is important to military Veterans and others who have a need to get records of a veterans military service.

According to a recent news release – “The National Personnel Records Center is one of the National Archives and Records Administration's largest operations. It is the central repository of personnel-related records for both the military and civil services of the United States Government. Its mission is to provide world class service to government agencies, military Veterans and their family members, former civilian Federal employees, and the general public.

“The new National Personnel Records Center has the capacity to store 2.3 million cubic feet of records. Holdings include more than 100 million Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF), Organizational and Auxiliary files, and Official Personnel Folders (OPF) of former civilian Federal personnel who separated prior to 1973. The new facility is the home to over 600 NRPC staff and over a dozen other Federal agencies. It contains a state-of-the-art preservation laboratory for records conservation, two large public research rooms and a multi-purpose room for meetings and public outreach.”

Normally, Veterans desiring copies or information about their military service must provide a copy of their DD Form 214 to NRPC. However if they do not have a copy of their DD214 or equivalent document showing military service they still might contact the NRPC with an explanation of their situation.

Scheduling an Appointment:

Hours of Operation:

Monday through Friday,

7:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. Central Time

(Closed weekends and Federal holidays)

Telephone: [314-801-0800](tel:314-801-0800)

Chuck Zeitvogel
Judge Advocate



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 209 Frank Maellaro

The SAL meeting scheduled last month was cancelled at the last minute due to extreme weather conditions in Denver and Monument Hill. I am waiting to hear from the Detachment before trying to re-schedule the meeting. In the meantime, the SAL will be meeting a 10:00 on the 2nd Saturday after the breakfast of every month. I hope to see all of you then.

If you have questions or would like more information please email me at maellaro@comcast.net. We are growing and are looking for more members. If you are eligible and interested, please take a moment and make a check or a money order for \$20.00 to SAL Squadron 209 and mail it to the Squadron at P.O. Box 25334, Colorado Springs, Co 80936. Or you can go to our Post web site and join.

Thank you Frank



From Junior Vice Commander Lyle Hagelberg

November is the month Americans celebrate what was once Armistice Day before it was called Veterans Day. I was in Europe in May and June this year and had the opportunity to visit two of our 24 permanent American burial grounds around the world. We have 124,909 war dead in these cemeteries. The two cemeteries were in France. One was from WWI—St Mihiel American Cemetery and the from World War II — Lorraine American Cemetery in St Void, France. These are not the first overseas cemeteries I have visited but the feeling of reverence and awe and pride makes me feel taller than my 5' 9". It is the same feeling I have when walking through Arlington National Cemetery. It is also the same feeling I have each time I salute our Flag.

I hope we all have that feeling of pride as we march or watch others marching in the Veterans Day Parade. God Bless our Veterans and the USA.



**Club Manager
Art Kimbrel**

I would like to take a moment and say THANKS to all who have attended the various functions, such as the breakfasts, dinners, and others. I appreciate the encouraging words that are spoken.

I would ask that you pass those comments on to your friends and encourage them to come out and try the food for themselves and see what they think.

Just as a reminder, for the Hamdogger Wingding nights, children under the age of 12 will receive a free hotdog when you order a meal. For the various dinners that we have, children under the age of 12 and who are sharing your plate are free.

Reservations are very important when planning meals for the various events. We lose a lot of money when we do not know how many will be attending. The one thing that I have found to be intolerable is when someone comes in for a meal and there is not enough food.

I would like you to make your reservations by calling either Jackie Bowen at 719-574-1223 (home) or jackiebowen2005@yahoo.com. You can also reserve with Lynn Thomas. Her contact number is (719) 439-6268.

UMBRELLA SALES

The word has gotten out about our latest fund raiser, which is the UMBRELLA pictured to the right. We are selling the umbrellas for \$15 each. Features include:



Drip Free system to prevent water from getting on the floors and carpets.

Clear panel for easy visibility.

The money we make will assist local area Veterans and Auxiliary programs.



The Centennial Newsletter



Getting the newsletter to you, our members, can sometimes be like sending mail by Pony Express; it may or may not get to you.

I just got around to once again check the returns on emails and compare them against the membership database. What I found was that there are 66 members who have not been receiving a newsletter because the email address I had was incorrect so I corrected the database. You should now be getting this month's Centennial.

It takes a lot of time, work and money to keep you, our members informed on what is happening. If you know of a member not receiving the newsletter by email or snail mail please let me know and I will fix the problem. If you would like to receive The Centennial by email instead of regular mail, please send Larry a note at americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com.



**Veterans Day
Parade**



On Saturday, 5 November, our Post will be participating in the Veterans Day parade. The Auxiliary will again be decorating the reviewing stand and is looking for volunteers to help with the decorating.

One of members, Richard Ausmus has donated the use of a truck and trailer. The decoration of the truck and trailer will be on Friday 4 November. If you can help decorate either the truck and trailer or at the reviewing stand please call the Post at 719-599-8624 or Jackie Bowen at 719-574-1223.

Decorating the trailer may be a little time consuming if we get all the decorations we want. If you can help it sure would be appreciated.

I hope that everyone will come down and be along the parade route encouraging those who are walking the parade. Hope you can take pictures and share them with the Post so we can put them in the newsletter or post on our Webpage.



**From the Adjutant
Larry Johnson**

Every year just like clockwork, I get phone calls and emails telling me they have received a renewal notice from National and asking if they are current. We start our membership drive in July and there is always a large contingent that renew immediately and for that I thank you very much. We send the renewals to Department and Department batches all of them and sends them to National. National does not post the 2012 membership renewals until after the National Convention. In the meantime, National is pulling the membership roster and sending it to the printer for the next mail out, which is in October. There are times due to the time frame lagging that you renew your membership dues and they are sent forward that you will also receive a renewal notice even though you have renewed.

There are two things that you can do help clear up the confusion. One is to look in your wallet, purse, on top of the dresser and see if you have a 2012 membership card. If you find your 2012 card, throw the newly received renewal notice in the garbage as you have already renewed. If you have renewed and you do not have your card, please call me at 719-599-8624 or send an email to americanlegion-post209@yahoo.com and I will get back with you. Second, if you want to look into the Paid up For Life or the new C.A.M.P.P. program Department instituted, please let me know and I will get the information to you.

Speaking of renewing your membership, right now I am in the process of getting the Post's own membership renewal mailing to all 361 members of the Post from 2010 and 2011 who are still being carried on the membership rolls, but who have not paid their 2012 dues. If all 361 members would renew by 15 November there would be no need for me to send out reminders. There are a lot of Veterans, families and children who have lost one or both of their parents that are seeking and needing help from the American Legion. Your dues provide the means for the American Legion to fulfill these requests.

So long for now, I'll talk with you next month.




**From the Finance Officer
Norm Moyer**

EMBLEM SALES SHIPMENT RECEIVED:

Recently Post 209 received a shipment of Uniform Caps sizes 7 thru 7 3/8. Cost is \$40.00. Other sizes also available. More accessory pins are being ordered.

Any special order requests, call Post 209 at 599-8624 or my cell 719-332-3701 and leave a message for me.



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CELEBRATION**

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RSVP Special

Make an advance reservation for the Steak night on 18 November and receive a special discount. With advance reservations & the coupon below, 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 jackiebowlen2005@yahoo.com. Lynn's contact number is (719) 439-6268. Present the coupon below with your order.



**STEAK NIGHT
COUPON**

Buy 1 dinner at Regular Price of \$ 12.00 get the 2nd One at \$ 2.00 off.

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

What I always wanted to know about The American Legion

The growth of American Legion Post 209 has been phenomenal over the past couple of years. As a result of this growth there have arisen many questions regarding the history, traditions, customs/courtesies and some myths. In an effort to inform and enlighten many of our new members and update some of the older members; I will try to inform all.

At our last Post meeting I attempted to clarify a few questions regarding the different colors of Legion Caps. If you were not present, here is the explanation. The standard blue cap worn by most Legionnaires is the true traditional American Legion cap. As you accept more responsibility and are elected to an office other than Post level, the cap colors change. An example, you are elected to a District office, you would now receive a blue bordered cap with a white crown (see last month's Centennial for picture). Later, you are elected to a Department office and you now wear a white cap. In the event that you are elected to a National Office you would now wear a Red Cap. Nevertheless, whenever you vacate a higher elected position, you automatically revert to a blue cap Legionnaire again.

I will be doing a monthly article covering some particular aspects of American Legion History and traditions. I will also try to clarify some myths at each meeting, so plan to attend and get the straight skinny. If you have questions regarding any aspect of The American Legion, feel free to forward your questions to me at the Post e-mail address or contact me personally. I will do my utmost to provide answers to all of your questions.

For God and Country

Neal L. Thomas, Jr.



The Pikes Peak Work Force Center has moved from their Pikes Peak Location to 1675 Garden of The Gods Rd, Suite 1107. You can also access their service by going to www.ppwfc.org. Their website has job listings posted from various companies. You may qualify for one of these positions.



VA Information Day

On **November 8, 2011 from 8am-noon** and coinciding with Veterans Day, we will be hosting a **VA Information Day** in the **Denver VA Medical Center auditorium**. The event is an opportunity for **any Veteran** to come to the Medical Center and find information about (and assistance applying for) **any VA benefit** they may be entitled to. We will have high level representatives and information on; Healthcare Eligibility and Enrollment, Women Veterans Program, Jobs with VA, Mental Health Services, Compensation and Pension, Homeless Veteran Programs, Suicide Prevention Program, GI Bill, VA Home Loan, Survivor Benefits, Burial Benefits and much more.

This event will take place in the Denver VA Hospital Auditorium from 8 to 12 P.M. on 8 November. The Hospital is located on Claremont Street and between 8th and 9th Ave.



AARP Safe Driving

During the month of November AARP will be hosting a 50+ driver's education course. If you take this course you can receive a discount on your car insurance. This is a four hour free class to Veterans and their spouses. All that is required is for you to present a DD Form 214, military retiree card or a card from a Veterans Organization and fill out the paperwork that will be available at the course. Post 209 is sponsoring one of the classes in November but the date has not been set as we need to know how many will be in attendance. Please send an email to americanlegionpost209@yahoo.com and let us know how many will be attending. We will then email you the date and time of the class.