



For God and Country Seward Post 5 Newsletter

February 2019
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American Legion Seward Post 5
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Commander's Comments By Clare Sullivan

Welcome to February everyone! One month down for 2019 and we're rapidly gaining daylight!!! Woohoo! ☺ Although it is still pretty dark at the edges of the day remember we're not that far off from brighter and warmer days. This time of year sometimes is a time for "Cabin Fever" but don't let it get to you. Get on your cleats and get out and get some fresh air, especially given how warm it's been! It is amazing how good you feel with some fresh air in your lungs!!! The holidays are over and the Polar Bear Jump Off is done and was an amazing success. Next, we have our "non"-Super Bowl party and Valentine's Day and we'll roll right into St. Pat's Day right after that. I expect we'll also have a few other fun events spontaneously crop up particularly with all the Coast Guard folks in town (that is if we don't have another shutdown but if it happens we'll be prepared again to help!

Okay before I get off on anything else, I'd like to thank everyone for their support during our holiday and Polar Bear Jump Off events. The food, the post décor, the service was and still is outstanding by everyone, all thanks to our incredible volunteers! Thankfully, we had a lot of helping hands to make it happen. You guys are great and uniquely talented! You jump right in and find what needs to be done and get it accomplished. That is "yuge!" I am also pleased to mention it is a wonderful mix of Post, Auxiliary, and Sons who are participating and making things happen. Thank you so very much, without you we couldn't provide what we do for our veterans and the community.



I would be remiss if I didn't make a special mention to Dave Dieckgraff from Squadron 5 and Metco for keeping our rather large parking lot plowed and graveled during the tough winter months. Thanks Dave and your crew for helping keep us all upright and moving forward in this brisk and icy Winter!

As you will see we have things planned (as always) for February at the club with food and activities. We also have

nominations for officers for all our organizations. You know what we do and how we serve in this community. It is a good thing to be involved as many of our volunteers have been, so why not help steer our direction? All of our organizations have a variety of positions that really don't require a huge commitment of time and are designed to help individuals learn more about the American Legion at the post level - and, if you're interested at the higher echelons of the department and national levels as well. As you know we're a nationwide organization that is committed to helping veterans, families and communities. All I ask is that you think about it and if you're interested in being a part of a proud and prestigious organization that has a long commitment of service to others, give us a call and we'd be happy to show you what we do as a service organization in our efforts to help others. Even better, come to a meeting, I promise they're informative and don't take lots of time and you might even enjoy yourself! ☺



Moving on, every one of our memberships allows us to be a stronger organization locally and through the national level. Our membership numbers are a distinct voice for veterans' rights and benefits. With over two million members nationally we collectively can influence the decisions made regarding what we, as veterans and future veterans, will receive due to our service; whether the benefits are medical, disability, education, or ongoing support. We have veterans



throughout Seward ranging from Korean Era veterans to veterans involved in ongoing military activities worldwide. All have served and all deserve the consideration due to them for their honorable service. Our post has been the starting point for many of them to learn what they are eligible for and can receive in terms of opportunities and benefits from the Veterans Administration. By coming by the post, and speaking to one of our officers, a veteran can potentially learn what is out there for them and can help them medically or educationally. Although membership at the post isn't necessary why wouldn't one want to become involved? Think about it, and if you know of a veteran who can use some help or support let us know.

"For God and Country"

February is Americanism Month

The American Legion was founded 100 years ago and we're celebrating its centennial this year at many posts in Alaska and throughout the nation. The organization is formed on what are called the **Four Pillars**. Essentially what these "pillars" focus on are service and veteran advocacy, and these pillars are organized as....

- Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
- National Security
- Americanism
- Children & Youth

Americanism, the third pillar, we are celebrating this month; and it is characterized by an unflinching love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals, eagerness to defend it against all enemies, individual allegiance to the flag, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

No one should ever question the patriotism of the members of The American Legion Family. Upon the pillar of Americanism, this organization promotes obedience to law and order, and respect for the U.S. Flag. The American Legion builds enthusiasm for public service among young people through such programs as Boys Nation and the National Oratorical Contest. Our support of Scouting helps build strong youth through confidence building and patriotic activities. We also believe and work to keep God in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Through the National American Legion Americanism Commission, the programs of Americanism that foster service and advocacy include:

National High School Oratorical Contest
 Junior Shooting Sports Program
 Boys State and Boys Nation
 American Legion Baseball
 Scouting
 Citizenship and Immigration Reform
 Flag Etiquette and Protection
 Scholarships
 Get out and Vote Program
 Youth Alumni Programs
 Junior Law Cadet

As we celebrate Americanism this month, take a look at some of these programs on The American Legion website (www.legion.org) and see what you find interesting. Get involved in a program that appeals to you, we'd love to see you and help. We do what we can at the post with many of these programs, but you will soon see there are much more out there that can benefit our veterans, our youth and our town.

One More Thing...

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all of Seward Post 5 American Legion Family and the Seward Community who stepped up to help our friends and neighbors affected by the shutdown. Our Mustang crew and the visiting crew from the Spar and many other federal workers suffered with lacking a couple of paychecks. Even if you have a good financial cushion, an unexpected halt of incoming funds is stressful and scary - especially if there is no defined end. You all in such earnest sought out to find ways to help and I believe our community helped in a variety of ways, and I further believe we learned quite a bit during this process on how to communicate better and more effectively support people directly impacted, as well as those who are collaterally affected. This kind of event has proven there are some significant ripple effects with unexpected consequences. Let's hope this is the last time this kind of problem happens on the grand scale; and also makes us more sensitive to others who may experience this same kind of distress even without a formal shutdown.

Okay, maybe it isn't only one more thing.... 😊 Several people commented on how well the post was able to respond to some of the people during the shutdown. We were able to provide complimentary meals and other services to people in town and were prepared (and preparing) for other eventualities. Some of the reasons for this are how we are set up as an organization, the services we normally provide as the American Legion and the fact we (Post 5) have provided meals and support for large groups of people over the years. Also, the American Legion at the National level has many programs that are designed to help people on a large scale to include the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program, disaster assistance programs, the multitude of Children and Youth Programs, scholarships and other assistance programs.

One of the most pertinent reasons the American Legion can respond in the fashion it can is it is a large and organized group of like-minded individuals with a mission of service to veterans and their communities. It also helps that the American Legion was designed at its inception 100 years ago with the philosophy of "mutual helpfulness" which continues to drive it today. Many people see the building where we have many functions but the "social area" is not the American Legion, it simply is a benefit for the members and their guests. The American Legion is so much more and advocates for veterans and their families for benefits, compensation for injuries, education for veterans and their children as well as so many support programs. It is a great organization and will continue as long as there are those who have the same view to serve others and participate in the organization.

Thanks again Seward and Seward Post 5 American Legion Family for all you do!

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice/Club.

Great big thanks to everyone who stepped up during the Polar Bear Jumpoff Festival last month.



You all did a tremendous job whether in the kitchen, helping out with all the activities, or working the social area during the really busy meals and karaoke contest. It was very gratifying to see so many volunteers give their time and effort to this great fundraising weekend!!

This month we have more opportunity to volunteer and support the activities of the Post 5 family. We have a Super Bowl party on Feb 3, we have the community breakfast on Feb 17, and we have breakfasts for the National Ocean Science Bowl on Feb 22,23,24. There may also be other activities with the USCGC Spar which is here until mid-March. Let me know if you would like to help and we will gladly 😊 put you to work.

We are in the new 2019 Membership Year. Thanks to all who have renewed or joined, we have reached 85% of our 2019 membership goal. Let's keep the momentum going and push on to reach our 100% goal. If you have not renewed yet, please consider doing so. As we all know, membership is truly the cornerstone of the American Legion at all levels from the local posts to the national headquarters. We are working hard to turn around a nationally declining membership and it starts with all of us at the post level. If you know veterans who may be eligible for membership, bring them in for dinner and we can show them what we do for veterans and the community. They may think we are just a bar. Let's show them we are a veteran's service organization that donates about \$100,00.00 a year back to the community and we happen to have a nice social area where we can enjoy good food, good drinks, and great camaraderie.



Bingo is going strong on Mondays at 6:30 and poker is still scheduled for Sunday and Monday at 6:00pm. Come on in and enjoy some good food and fun.



Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and all the activities designed to support our membership, our veterans, and the community. We look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Sounding Off from the Sons....

By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Definitely an interesting winter season so far. Hopefully we will get some more snow before it gets cold, if it gets cold.

January was a busy month; everyone really stepped up to take care of all the Post happenings including the Polar Bear Jumpoff Festival. Squadron 5 members David Osborn, who was involved in all activities, and Robbie Bernier who took care of the Polar Bear Fish Feed, set the example of support to the Post and the Community. Great job guys!!



This month the Post will host a great **Super Bowl** party on Feb 3, **Community Breakfast** on Feb 17, and breakfast for the **National Ocean Science Bowl** on Feb 22,23,24. Lots of opportunity to support the activities and display your volunteer spirit.

The monthly meeting is on Feb 14th and will include the second round of officer nominations for 2019-2020. All Squadron 5 members are welcome to attend and see what is happening.

We are deep into the **new membership year** and I thank all those who have renewed their memberships and ask everyone else to consider doing so. Membership is the backbone of our organization and we need to continue to strive to be a strong and active part of the Post 5 family.

Thank you again for all your hard work and support of the Post 5 Family mission of service to the veterans and other community members in Seward.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 224-5440. Thanks again for all your support of the Post 5 family and I look forward to seeing you all around the Post.

The History of the Four Chaplains



The Four Chaplains

On Feb. 3, 1943, the United States Army Transport Dorchester - a converted luxury liner - was crossing the North Atlantic, transporting more than 900 troops to an American base in Greenland. Aboard the ship were four chaplains of different faiths: Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic).

Around 12:55 a.m., a German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck Dorchester's starboard side, below the water line and near the engine room. The explosion instantly killed 100 men and knocked out power and radio communication with Dorchester's three escort ships. Within 20 minutes, the transport sank and more than 670 men died.

As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, the four chaplains spread out, comforting the wounded and directing others to safety. One survivor, Private William Bednar, later said, "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying. I could also hear the chaplains' preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going."

Another survivor, John Ladd, watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven," he recalled. As Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington were posthumously awarded the **Distinguished Service Cross** and the **Purple Heart**, and in 1948, Congress declared Feb. 3 to be Four Chaplains Day.



Because of the Medal of Honor's strict requirements of heroism under fire, Congress authorized a one-time Chaplain's Medal for Heroism on July 14, 1960. The award was presented to the chaplains' next of kin Jan. 18, 1961.

On Feb. 3, 1951, President Truman dedicated a chapel in the chaplains' honor at Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia. When the building was sold, the chapel fell into disrepair, and the foundation overseeing the chapel moved it to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard in 2001. The chapel was repaired in 2004 and given the name Chapel of the Four Chaplains.

In 2006, at The American Legion's 88th National Convention in Salt Lake City, the National Executive Committee passed a resolution that supported awarding the Medal of Honor to Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington.

Unit 5 Auxiliary Update...

By Debbie VanTassel

January certainly flew by in a hurry! It has been a busy month at the Post with Polar Bear Jump off (Thank you to all the volunteers who helped raise money to fight cancer), 3rd Sunday breakfast and the visit from the USCG Spar crew. We welcome the USCG Spar crew while the ship is in dry dock.

Also, as a reminder February will be our **second call for officer nominations**. Again, it is so important to have members who are willing to step up and serve as an officer and help provide guidance and suggestions for the local Unit and the many projects we support. The more members we have involved the more effective we can be and the more we can get accomplished.

We have also received the first call for the state convention in April. The convention is April 25-28. This is a great opportunity to meet with members from other Units throughout the state and exchange ideas about how we can fulfill the mission and programs of the ALA. It is also the time when the Units are recognized for all the projects and volunteer hours that are put in supporting the programs of the ALA. In April will again be submitting the reports for volunteer hours, so please if you have done any volunteering that has benefited veterans, children and youth, active military or the community please let me know so we can include those volunteer efforts in our reports.

Looking for something to do on these long cold winter nights? Come on down to the Legion on Mondays for BINGO! It is not only a fun evening and you might win! but it also helps the Auxiliary raise funds that support our many charitable programs throughout the year.

As we enter February, I encourage those members who have not renewed their membership yet for the 2019 year, please do so. It is so important for our members to renew. The dues help support the mission and vision of the American Legion Auxiliary on the local, state and national level. Now more than ever it is important to have a strong organization that is focused on helping our veterans, active military, community and youth.

What is the **mission and vision** statement of the American Legion Auxiliary?

Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Vision Statement

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support to our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

I hope you have a great February and enjoy the longer daylight hours and hopefully a little better weather.

♥ Happy Valentines' Day! ♥

Desert Storm, the First Gulf War

On August 2, 1990, Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait. Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had been making threats against Kuwait for some time, but his actual invasion caught most of the world by surprise. The magnitude of the invasion also was a surprise. Those who had expected an attack, such as the commander of U.S. Central Command, Norman Schwarzkopf, expected a limited attack to seize Kuwaiti oil fields. Instead, within a number of hours, Iraqi forces had seized downtown Kuwait City and were headed south toward the Saudi Arabia border.

On the morning of January 16, 1991, Allied forces began the first phase of Desert Storm, also known as Desert Shield. American forces first destroyed Iraqi border radar stations, then other key elements of the Iraqi anti-aircraft network; lastly, they began to bomb key targets in downtown Iraq, including the presidential palace, communication centers, and power stations. The Allied forces lost only two aircraft during

the attacks. The assault continued day and night.

Those initial air attacks constituted the first time the American military witnessed how their new arsenal performed in combat conditions. With such ground systems as the M1A1 Abrams missile and the MIM-104 Patriot missile, the Iraq military had little opportunity to defend themselves. Also, such other groundbreaking technology as the Global Positioning System (GPS), helped to pinpoint hits by the Tomahawk missile and other weapons.



AWACS surveillance aircraft, F-117A Stealth fighters, E-8C JSTARS radar command posts, and the RPVs (drones). The damage done by U.S. air attacks was devastating to Saddam's vaunted Republican Guard. The following U.S. aircraft left "a big hurt" on the enemy during the war: AH-64 Apache helicopters, B-52 Stratofortress bombers, E-3 AWACS surveillance aircraft, F-117A Stealth fighters, E-8C JSTARS radar command posts, and the RPVs (drones).



drones (RPVs)
this small remote-controlled
pilotless plane emerged
as a valuable asset in
the Gulf War. These remote
piloted vehicles (RPVs) or
also known as UAVs for
unmanned aerial vehicles
resembled oversized model
planes and acted as aerial
spies.



Overall, the coalition air campaign (consisting mostly of U.S. pilots) accumulated a total of 109,876 sorties over the 43-day air war — averaging 2,555 sorties per day. Of those, more than 27,000 sorties struck enemy Scuds, airfields, air defenses, electrical power, biological and chemical weapons caches, headquarters, intelligence assets, communications, the Iraqi army, and oil refineries.

Day One ground attack. On February 24th at 4 a. m., Allied troops led by U.S. Marines crossed the border into Iraq. During the days before the attack, Iraqi troops had been subjected to merciless air attacks; every imaginable target was destroyed with accuracy.



(From historycentral.com)

The Allied offensive targeted three major offensive venues: the first aimed at Kuwait City, the second to the west aimed at the Iraqi flank, and the final one far to the west, beyond the major Iraqi lines that would totally outflank Iraqi lines. In the first day of the war the marines advanced halfway to Kuwait City and the western advances proceeded without difficulty — while capturing thousands of Iraqi deserters. The first day of ground fighting resulted in minimal American casualties.

Day Two ground attack. As Day Two approached, an Iraqi Scud missile destroyed the U.S. barracks in Dhahran, killing 28 U.S. soldiers. With morale nevertheless high, American troops advanced on all fronts. The marines approached Kuwait City, while the western flank began to cut off the Iraqi Army's retreat route. Coalition casualties for Day Two were, once again, light.

Day Three ground attack Day Three dawned on the largest tank battle in history. The American armored forces engaged the tank forces of the Iraqi Republican guard. Like shooting fish in a barrel, the American tanks destroyed the Iraqi heavy armor without losing a single tank.



On February 26th, Iraqi troops began to retreat from Kuwait while setting fire to an estimated 700 Kuwaiti oil wells. A long convoy of Iraqi troops, as well as Iraqi and Palestinian civilians, formed along the main Iraq-Kuwait highway. That convoy was bombed so relentlessly by the Allies that it came to be known as the "Highway of Death." One hundred hours after the ground campaign began, President Bush declared a cease-fire on February 28th — declaring the liberation of Kuwait.



Presidents Day - February 18th

Presidents' Day: Origin as Washington's Birthday

The story of Presidents' Day date begins in 1800. Following President George Washington's death in 1799, his February 22 birthday became a perennial day of remembrance. At the time, Washington was venerated as the most important figure in American history, and events like the 1832 centennial of his birth and the start of construction of the Washington Monument in 1848 were cause for national celebration.



While Washington's Birthday was an unofficial observance for most of the 1800s, it was not until the late 1870s that it became a federal holiday. Senator Steven Wallace Dorsey of Arkansas was the first to propose the measure, and in 1879 President Rutherford B. Hayes signed it into law. The holiday initially only applied to the District of Columbia, but in 1885 it was expanded to the whole country. At the time, Washington's Birthday joined four other nationally recognized federal bank holidays—Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Independence Day and Thanksgiving—and was the first to celebrate the life of an individual American.




A move away from the original date of February 22 was made to honor both Washington and Abraham Lincoln, as it now fell between their two birthdays - Abraham Lincoln's birthday falling on February 12th.

Washington and Lincoln still remain the two most recognized leaders, but Presidents' Day is now popularly seen as a day to recognize the lives and achievements of all of America's chief executives.



Congressional measures to restore Washington and Lincoln's individual birthdays were proposed during the early 2000s, but all failed to gain much attention. For its part, the federal government has held fast to the original incarnation of the holiday as a celebration of the country's first president. The third Monday in February is still listed on official calendars as Washington's Birthday.

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BRASS BONES



Sam Clemens – Owner/Jewelry Artist

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 3 - Four Chaplains Sunday
Super Bowl Sunday

February 12 - Post Meeting

February 13 - Auxiliary Meeting

February 14 - Son's Meeting
Valentines' Day


February 17 - Community Breakfast

February 18 - Presidents' Day

ADVENTURE SIXTY NORTH

Outdoor Adventure Center
 Seward, Alaska

S & M Embroidery
 Sharon Dillon & Melinda Maddox
 362-2009





FEBRUARY 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Steak Night 1	Pool League 2
						
3	4	Mexican Martes 5	6	7	Steak Night 8	Pool League 9
Four Chaplains Sunday Super Bowl Party 1pm 	OMAHA POKER 6PM  Luscious Leftovers BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 					
10	11	Mexican Martes 12	13	14	Steak Night 15	Pool League 16
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM  Luscious Leftovers	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  OMAHA POKER 6PM  Luscious Leftovers	Post Meeting 7pm  President Lincoln's Birthday	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm  85% Post Membership Tgt	SAL Meeting 7pm  Valentines Day		
17	President's Day 18	Mexican Martes 19	20	21	Steak Night 22	Pool League 23
Community Breakfast  "Texas Hold 'em" 6PM Luscious Leftovers	OMAHA POKER 6PM  Luscious Leftovers BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 				President Washington's Birthday  National Ocean Science Bowl	Iwo Jima Flag Raised in 1945 
24	25	Mexican Martes 26	27	28		
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM Luscious Leftovers National Ocean Science Bowl Opn Desert Storm Begins	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  Luscious Leftovers OMAHA POKER 6PM 			End of "Operation Desert Storm" 1991 		



Remember President's Day and honor our presidents by reading up on some of your favorite presidents!

Food Every Night at the Post!