

# For God and Country Seward Post 5 Newsletter

February 2021  
Volume 18, Issue 02

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## COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



It looks like 2021 is going to be a good one and we're excited to see what this year brings! Now, I'm not saying it will be "normal," after all we're still on Covid watch and fortunately our American Legion Family is holding strong and remaining healthy.... For the most part that is aside our routine aches and pains that come with age and "experience." 😊

We will remain busy with our regular activities including complementary nightly meals and weekly activities (Bingo and Pool League) all supported by our amazing volunteer bartenders who make a lively and welcoming place in our "Social Area!" Thank You for all you do for our American Legion Family!

Here we are in February and we have a yummy dinner planned for Volunteer Appreciation Night and of course the SuperBowl. And we stand ready to support where we can with food and any other help in our modified lives these days so if you know where we can help give us a call! We have more things in the hopper but I'll let the The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice give more details in his section. Also, make sure you take a look at the calendar for nightly activities and the yummy meals. 🍔👍

February is **Americanism Month**. Many may wonder what that means and essentially it is the month that we focus on one of "the Four Pillars" that make up the American Legion. In 1919, The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each pillar encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its servicemembers, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. These programs make a difference in hundreds of thousands of lives each year.



At the national level and at varying levels at the posts, Americanism encompasses many of the following programs:

- Flag Protection & the Pledge of Allegiance
- Immigration & Citizenship
- Voter Registration and Participation
- Scouting
- Scholarship Programs (Legacy, Oratorical, etc.)
- Boys State and Boys Nation
- American Legion Baseball
- Junior Shooting Programs

As you can see there is a lot to the American Legion, what it does and can do to be a vital part of a community; these programs are under only one pillar, there is so much more when you examine the other pillars.

February brings the "first call for officers" for the Post, and the Sons and the Auxiliary will have their second call. All positions



are up for consideration in all our organizations. If you like what we are doing (or not) and want to get involved, this is a great way to do that. As you may already know we help many in our community and throughout the state

by funding scholarships, supporting community events, helping those in need, honoring our patriotic holidays, and generally running an organization that positively impacts many in this community. You may think it takes a lot of time but not really.

The way posts are organized so the "division of labor" isn't overwhelming for one officer or position. We all pull together to make things successful. We are thrilled at whatever you can do to help. Our decisions about our activities are made at our Post meetings. You can help guide what we do by coming in and offering your input, your "2 cents", and ideas. With this in mind, in order to participate you need to be a current member, so drag out your card from your wallet and if it doesn't say 2021 - you need to renew (hint hint 😊).



Speaking of membership, every membership makes us a stronger organization locally through the national level. Our membership numbers are a very loud voice for veterans' rights and benefits. We have veterans throughout Seward from all conflicts and with the passage of the Legion Act last year, eligibility has broadened for more to become members. The local post for many veterans



is the start point for them to learn what they are eligible for and can receive in terms of benefits and support from the **Veterans Administration**. By coming by the post, and speaking to one of our officers, or the Department Service Officer a veteran can learn what is out there for them - in terms of medical and educational benefits and assistance; as well as finding a familiar and welcoming community with many common and shared experiences. Coming to the Post, we often refer to our social area, as your "alternate living room." It is a warm and friendly place and always with great food and wonderful camaraderie!

## The History of 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."

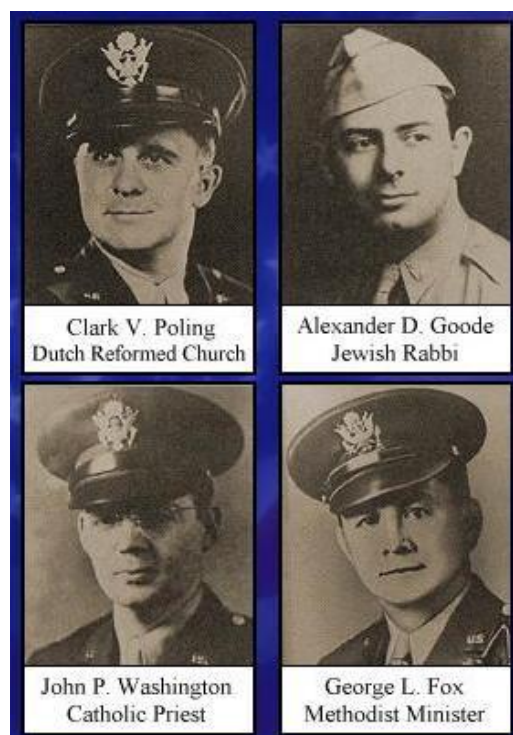
Another survivor, John Ladd, watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. "It was the finest thing I have seen, or hope to see, this side of heaven," he recalled. As Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm,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



The Chaplain's Medal for Heroism is a decoration of the United States Congress which was authorized by an act of Congress on July 14, 1960. Known as the Chaplain's Medal of Honor and the Four Chaplains' Medal, the decoration commemorates the actions of the Four Chaplains who gave their lives in the line of duty on February 3, 1943. The medal was designed by Thomas Hudson Jones (1892-1969) of the United States Army Institute of Heraldry. It was presented posthumously to their next of kin by Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker at Ft. Myer, Virginia on January 18, 1961.





## House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Hope you are all having a great winter, all things considered. Weather has seemed normal for Seward after a string of weak ones. Get out and enjoy the fresh air and the winter sports and activity opportunities that have presented themselves.

I would like to thank all the great volunteers that continue to support the Post 5 Family in its mission of service to the veterans and the community of Seward. Without those volunteers Post 5 would not be able to provide everything we do for our members and the community. You are truly the backbone of the organization. The Club and Kitchen volunteers have been amazing and continue to provide good food and service for our membership.



This month the Club will open early for the Superbowl on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> so come and enjoy some good food and hopefully a good game. The Post will hold a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> and the Community Breakfast on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Let me know if you would like to volunteer your time during any of these events.

Pool League, for members only, is going strong on Saturday nights and Bingo is happening every Monday night. We still have food every night for dine in or take out.



The 2021 membership year is moving along and the Post has reached all monthly goals so far. I would like to thank everyone who has renewed their membership and encourage those

who have not to consider doing so. **You can renew online at [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org), by mail, or in person at the post.** Membership is the backbone of our organization and we need to keep that backbone strong to continue to carry the load we do for our veterans and the community of Seward.

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



Hope everyone is enjoying the snowy winter as best as you can. It has been a while since the outdoor recreation was so readily available through the winter. Be safe and soak up some chilly vitamin D.

I want to thank all Squadron 5 members who continue to support the Post 5 family mission of service to the veterans and community of Seward. Your dedication to the mission of the S.A.L. is commendable.



This month to Post will be open early for the Superbowl on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, will host a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Feb 13<sup>th</sup>, and will hold the community breakfast on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>. Let us know if you would like to help with any of these functions.

The Squadron will hold it's monthly meeting on Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. We will be having our second round of officer nominations and all current members are welcome and encouraged to attend.



The new membership year is moving right along and we are meeting the monthly goals as set by National Headquarters. Thanks to everyone who has renewed their dues this year. Remember the dues are \$35.00 this year. Membership is foundation for all the SAL programs so please consider renewing your dues if you have not done so.

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 when possible.



## From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel



Well February is here and along with it are longer days - It is so nice to be outside at 5 PM and still have daylight- a sure sign that summer will eventually get here. Many of our usual activities are still unfortunately being sidelined by COVID. However, we will still have plenty of things going on.

I would like to send out Get Well wishes to all of our Auxiliary members who have been feeling under the weather recently.

I know it has been a tough winter for many members. Please remember if you need any assistance let one of the Auxiliary officers know.



**Membership-** the Auxiliary has been doing awesome on membership. We are currently at 87% for our Unit. If you haven't renewed please do so- membership dues are vital to support our programs at the Unit, State and National level. It would be great if we could reach 100% by the end of February so that we could be recognized at the Department Convention in April.

## Join or Renew Your Membership



Speaking of the Department Convention- The Auxiliary has received its Call to Department Convention which will be held on April 15-17 at Susitna Valley Post 35 in Wasilla. If anyone is interested in running for a Department Office, please let one of the Unit officers know as we need to submit a letter of support. Also, if anyone is interested in attending the convention please attend our regular meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> so we can submit a roster of those planning to attend the Department Convention.



Bingo is every Monday night with doors opening at 6 PM and games starting at 630PM. It is a fun way to get out of the house for one night and help support the Auxiliary.

Our regular monthly meeting will be held at 6 PM on February 10<sup>th</sup>. This will be our first call for officer nominations for the upcoming year. It would be helpful if

we had more members attend the meetings and volunteer to hold office.

On February 13<sup>th</sup> the Legion Family will be celebrating our great Volunteers with a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. It is our way of thanking all the volunteers who have donated hundreds and hundreds of hours to support the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons programs.



### Other Important Days in February

**Feb 2- Groundhog Day-** after the winter we have had so far- let's hope Punxsutawney Phil does not see his shadow and winter ends soon!

**Feb. 3- Four Chaplains Day-** If you are not familiar with the story of the Four Chaplains- I encourage you to look it up and read about it.

**Feb 4- USO Birthday**

**Week of Feb 14<sup>th</sup>- National Salute to Veteran Patients**

**Feb 19- Coast Guard Reserve Birthday.**

*Hope everyone has a safe and pleasant February!*



## Presidents Day

Excerpt from [history.com](http://history.com)

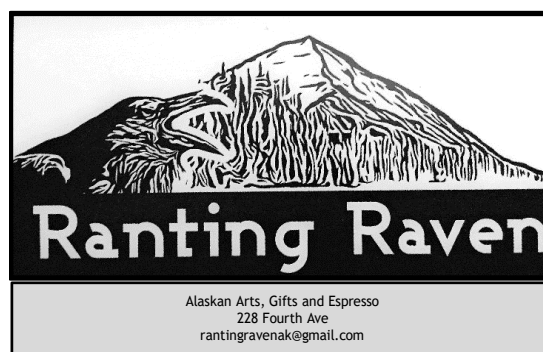
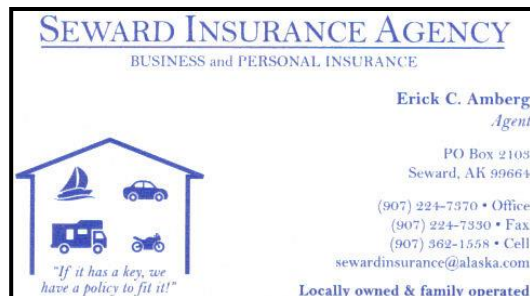
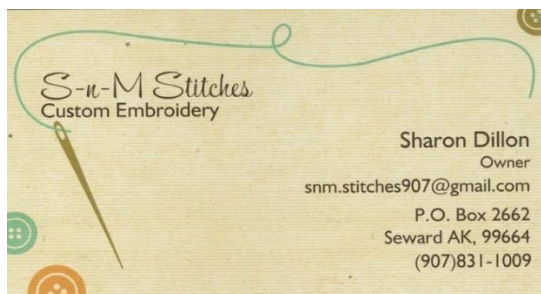
Presidents' Day is a federal holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February; Presidents' Day 2021 will occur on Monday, February 15. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, the holiday became popularly known as Presidents' Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act, an attempt to create more three-day weekends for the nation's workers. While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents' Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents, past and present.





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# February 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>Chili Dogs</b> 1	<b>Mexican Martes</b> 2	3	<b>B, B, M&amp;C</b> 4	<b>Steak Night</b> 5	6
	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> 					<b>Pool League</b> 
<b>Four Chaplains Sunday</b> 7	<b>Chili Dogs</b> 8	<b>Mexican Martes</b> 9	10	<b>B, B, M&amp;C</b> 11	<b>Steak Night</b> 12	13
<b>Super Bowl Post</b> <b>opens at 1:00 pm</b> 	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> 	<b>Post Meeting</b> <b>5:30pm</b> 	<b>Auxiliary</b> <b>Meeting 6pm</b> 	<b>SAL Meeting</b> <b>7pm</b> 		<b>Volunteer</b> <b>Appreciation</b> <b>Dinner</b> 
14	<b>Chili Dogs</b> 15	<b>Mexican Martes</b> 16	17	<b>B, B, M&amp;C</b> 18	<b>Steak Night</b> 19	20
	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b> <b>I Love Bingo</b> <b>Presidents</b> <b>Day</b> 					<b>Pool League</b> 
21	<b>Chili Dogs</b> 22	<b>Mexican Martes</b> 23	24	<b>B, B, M&amp;C</b> 25	<b>Steak Night</b> 26	27
<b>7Community</b> <b>Breakfast</b>  <b>Luscious Leftovers</b>	<b>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</b>  <b>Presidents' Day</b>		<b>Operation Desert</b> <b>Storm Starts</b> <b>(1991)</b>			<b>Pool League</b> 
28						
<b>Operation Desert</b> <b>Storm Ends</b> <b>(1991)</b> <b>Luscious</b> <b>Leftovers</b>						



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