



# VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

## SEWARD POST 5 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023  
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### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Hey Post 5 Family, we're getting the daylight back (yay!), and boy has it been a long, cold dark and snowy winter; and what about the ice department.... Well, we don't need to talk about that one, we're "veterans" in that department! 😊 We're not finished yet, but at least we have some more sun and with the better weather around the corner, we'll soon be able to do more outdoor activities that do not require a ton of clothes and ice grippers!

We have some fun and important things planned for this month including the final round of nominations for all our organizations and we will elect our new officers for the new year. Along with identifying our new officers, we will be planning a yummy Installation Dinner toward the end of March and supporting the HS TSUNAMI Science Bowl with good chow (of course)! We will also celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and of course we will celebrate the American Legion Birthday of our National



Organization that was the beginning of all our posts! So hang the calendar on the fridge and look for updates on the email and/or Facebook for the activities that we have going on and those that spontaneously crop up! 😊

Just to remind you March 15, the designated birthday of The American Legion (TAL), is the day in 1919 when the first American Legion Caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris. Much as the birthday of the United States is celebrated on July 4th for the day in 1776 when revolting patriots declared their independence from the British and the spirit of America was born - March 15 is the date on which the Legion came to life. Today, membership stands at about two million legionnaires and over 12,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.



Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of VA benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth. We have quite the legacy and have done some incredible

things in our over 100 year history and we are still moving forward with our commitment to service to our veterans, community and country throughout 2023 and beyond!

For those who have renewed for 2023 thank you very much! And if you haven't yet, please consider doing so. Your membership continues to make us a strong organization with the ability to help others right here in town. Every membership locally through the national level helps us all as many members create a very loud voice for veterans' rights and benefits on Capitol Hill. As mentioned last month, we have veterans throughout Seward ranging from nearly every war and conflict as well as our active-duty members who are scattered throughout the globe. We have a good core group in Seward and are so fortunate that we have many in our American Legion Family who step up to the plate and help in all our post activities. And, for that I sincerely thank every one of you for taking time out of your busy lives to be of service for our veterans and our community.

All our post members have served in the military, and all deserve the due consideration for their honorable service. The post is also the starting point for them to learn what they are eligible for at the VA and VBA and once evaluated and approved they can start receiving benefits and support, but support can be found at all levels of this organization and with about two million members we have a darn good fighting force to ensure veterans will continue to receive what they are entitled to from their military service.



**American Legion 2023 Legislative Priorities: [Know Before You Go](#)**  
Please listen to the information contained in the link above regarding the 2023 Legislative Priorities for the American Legion which can also be found at [legion.org](http://legion.org) if you don't use the link here. Learn key talking points to use when communicating with others and where possible, to our representatives. It is a good listen and an opportunity to learn more about the American Legion. Please click the link above for more information.

Please [click here](#) for [point papers](#) on each of the legislative priorities - they are super informative.

As many of you know we have been working to improve our Post home and our cemetery. Fortunately, we have some talented folks who can put their skills to use to help us do that; whether it is painting, landscaping, headstone maintenance, flooring, etc. All these improvements are needed to keep us going as a community service organization and we've been very fortunate lately with help from a couple of our local organizations - The **Seward Community Foundation** and our pass-through support partner, the **Seward Senior Center**. We have benefitted with the Foundations generous donations to help us with many of our efforts to support our veterans and our community. The Foundation's prior support in 2022 allowed us to purchase new kitchen stoves and allowing us to provide nightly meals, holiday meals to the community, monthly breakfasts and of course meals provided to local organizations' special activities and school events.



More recently, we were able, with a generous donation from the Foundation, we were able to purchase flooring for our Post meeting room that also supports many community organizations for their meetings and events.



Big thanks too to the USCGC KuKui for their help on the 1<sup>st</sup> day in getting the flooring going!



## National K9 Veterans Day

Excerpts from [Military.com](http://Military.com), [Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia), [militaryhistorynow.com](http://militaryhistorynow.com)

As an acknowledgement of our furry veterans, National K9 Veterans Day, March 13, is a day set aside to honor commemorate the service and sacrifices of American military and working dogs throughout history.



Sgt Stubby

It was on March 13, 1942, that the Army began training for its new War Dog Program, also known as the "K-9 Corps," according to American Humane, marking the first time that dogs were officially a part of the U.S. Armed Forces. The rest, as they say, is history.

Officially, the dogs of war span centuries and include such American heroes as [Sgt. Stubby](#), the original war dog,



Chips

[Chips](#), the most decorated dog in World War II and [Lex](#), who retired with his fallen owners family and [Cairo](#), the Navy SEAL working dog on the bin Laden raid.



Lex with Handler Dustin Lee



Cairo

America's greatest dog of its greatest generation was likely Chips, a German Shepherd, Collie, Husky mix that forced the [capture of 14 Italian soldiers in one day](#) during the invasion of Sicily despite being wounded.

Lex was the first active duty, fully fit military working dog to be granted early retirement in order to be adopted. Working for his United States Marine Corps handler, Corporal Dustin J. Lee in the Iraq War, he was wounded in an attack that killed Lee, and subsequently awarded an honorary Purple Heart.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, dogs have served primarily in explosive detection roles, [helping American and allied forces avoid IEDs and mines](#). They've also served on assault teams with special operators.

While some of the dogs in modern special operations are trained to engage directly with the enemy, [Cairo went on the kill/capture mission against Osama Bin Laden](#) but was there to search out hidden passages, enemies, or weapons.

These are just a few examples of heroic war dogs. Take some time to look up the many that have served and saved servicemembers throughout the decades of conflict, police work and throughout history.

# House and Vice Report...



By Mike Calhoon

Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant!

Typical of Seward winters, we are getting the snow we wish we had in December and January. Oh well, just be safe and enjoy the winter sports available to you.

I would like to thank all the great volunteers for their help this last month. The continued social area and kitchen help (*Big thanks to the regulars and Stefano "Jo Jo" Torre for his weekly Steak Night support*) has been exceptional, as usual. I also want to give a heartfelt thank you to all that helped with installation of the new flooring in the meeting room. David "Ozzie" Osborn, Dave Squires, Father Bill Hanrahan, Scott Wilde, and Eddie Treadway. We also had Hank Scaief and Thomas Engle from the USCGC Kukui help us out - great having young guys with young knees!!!

😊👍😊 Great job!!

This month we will be hosting teams for the **Tsunami Bowl (NOSB)**, for breakfast on March 3-5, will have St Patrick's Day dinner on March 17, no steak that night. The community breakfast will be on March 19, and Officer Installation Dinner will be held on March 25. Lots to do so let me know if you have time to volunteer for any of these functions.

Pool league is going well, poker on Sundays has kicked in, and Bingo is going great on Mondays. Pool and Poker are Member only activities and Bingo is open to the community. We still serve food every night so come and enjoy some fun and some good food.

We currently have a raffle for a hand crocheted U.S. Flag Afghan going on with the drawing to be held on March 17.



The 2023 membership year is rolling along. You can renew online at [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org), by mail, or here at the Post. The dues remain \$60.00. Membership is the backbone of this 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



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Winter is hanging on, but it is good for snow sport enthusiasts. Let's enjoy as long as it lasts for us.

I want to thank Squadron 5 members David Osborn and Scott Wilde who helped get the new flooring installed in the meeting room. You were a great help, in particular, David Osborn who brought tools and helped with the actual installation. Great job!!

This month the Post will need help for the Tsunami Bowl (NOSB) breakfasts March 3-5, **St Patrick's Day** dinner on March 17, the **Community Breakfast** on March 19, and the **Officer Installation Dinner** on March 25. Let me know if you have some time to volunteer for any of these functions.

This month the Squadron will elect officers for the next year. Our meeting is on March 9 @7:00pm. All members in good standing are welcome to attend the meetings.



The Department of Alaska convention will be held April 27-29 at Post 33 in Peter's Creek.



The 2023 Membership year is in full swing so please consider renewing your membership at any time. The dues will remain at \$35.00 for the 2023 year. Membership is the foundation for all the SAL programs.

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 Sharon Dillon

Happy March, and darn that ground hog! We are coming into some really beautiful days and even nights with the beautiful northern lights. Hope everyone has had a chance to see them.

Now getting down to business. First off, this is our last and final call for officers. If you have anyone who you want nominated for an office give Michelle or Connie a call or send an email to [sewardunit5@gmail.com](mailto:sewardunit5@gmail.com). Our meeting will be March 8th at 6:00. If interested, please come join us for some good camaraderie and perhaps even become an officer.



We have **Member of the Year** to vote on, along with our outstanding **Military Veteran of the Year**.



The Department Convention is in April if we have any interested participants, and you would like to attend please contact me.

The convention delegates will be voting on new constitution and bylaws.



If you know of any junior high school girl who would be interested in going to girl's state, please have them get in touch with one of us here at the legion. Girl's state is a week of learning focused on the responsible citizenship, leadership, and love of God and country. They also should be interested in government, current events and showing strong leadership abilities.

March is the month for St Patrick's Day. A little luck of the Irish. The fine cooks of the Legion will be fixing up a medley of good Irish vittles. Come to the club and join in the festivities and have some fun!!

This is also the month for the National Ocean Science Bowl. They will be here at the club for breakfast and lunch so anyone who want to volunteer to help contact Mike at the club.

Installation dinner will be at the end of the month.

Remember we are voting for new officers at our meetings.

## Chapter Director's Report

By Bobby Dunno



March! How many riders are out there noticing the occasional sections of dry pavement. As time and the month "marches" on we are going to be seeing more of it probably not often enough or we will have one of those perfect 50 degree spring days but I still will not be able to get the bike from the house to the highway. But regardless the countdown to when we can ride again has begun. I suggest we are think "melt".



The latest updates from around the ALR grapevine. ROMP dates have moved to 16-18 of June with the **Gathering** on the 15th. Flag Day and a wake up and we are riding. Perhaps we will be able to coordinate with the other Peninsula Chapters and rumble to Post 1 together. Of course, before that happens, we have our own **Bike Blessing** at Post 5 on **Armed Forces Day** which this year falls on Saturday May 20th.



March 2nd meeting at 5:30, topics on the agenda, update ALRA ride schedule update and of course Chapter Officer Elections. Also, the **ALRA Convention** meeting is the 26th of April the afternoon before the Department Convention begins. Y'all can expect Larry's call it's that time again and we will be taking care of all the routine stuff that makes us American Legion Riders.

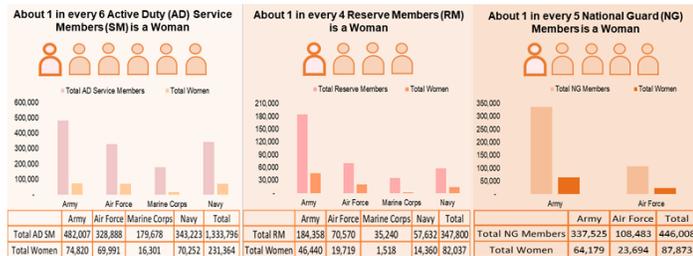
So, it is time to start addressing the itching feeling in our throttle hand along with that twitch we sometime develop in the left foot like we are clicking the next higher gear. You can figure with a few prayers and a lot of luck we will begin to see vast track of dry pavement in the last days of March or the first week of April and a few impatient riders are going to..

*Get On Our Bikes and Ride!*



## Special Days in March to Remember

March is **Women's History Month** and well over 200,000 women serve on active duty in the U.S. military. The contributions of women to military history cannot be ignored. While Women's History Month isn't a time to focus exclusively on the contributions of women in military service, the contributions of female veterans are certainly an important part of American history.



### Month of the Military Caregiver

During the Month of the Military Caregiver, Americans recognize and honor military caregivers' sacrifices and successes.

**March 3** - Navy Reserve Day

**March 4** - Hug a GI Day

**March 5** - Seabee Birthday

**March 12** - Daylight Savings Time begins

**March 13** - K-9 Veteran Day. With the creation of the United States K9 Corps on March 13, 1942, dogs were officially adopted into US military ranks during WWII. The Army's Dogs for Defense program trained 10,000 dogs who were again donated to the war effort by American families.

**March 15** - American Legion Birthday. On this day 104 years ago, members of the American Expeditionary Force convened in Paris for the first American Legion caucus.

**March 17** - Saint Patrick's Day

**March 21** - Rosie the Riveter Day

**March 25** - National Medal of Honor Day is observed every year on March 25 and is dedicated to Medal of Honor Recipients. Each branch of the U.S. military awards the Medal of Honor to those who have distinguished themselves "conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity" above and beyond the call of duty, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs official site.

**March 29** - National Vietnam War Veterans Day- National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed every year on March 29 and is a way to thank and honor our nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. U.S. Armed Forces personnel with active-duty service between November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location of service which includes:

- ✚ Nine million Americans serving during that time
- ✚ 6.4 million Americans living today
- ✚ 2.7 million U.S. service members who served in Vietnam
- ✚ 58,000 whose names are memorialized on a black granite wall in our Nation's Capital
- ✚ 304,000 who were wounded
- ✚ 1,518 Vietnam **Missing in Action** (MIA) heroes who have not yet returned to American soil
- ✚ 2,500 **Prisoners of War** (POWs)

The commemoration makes no distinction between veterans who served in-county, in-theater, or were stationed elsewhere during those 20 years.

**Coming up-** April is the Month of the Military Child. Created in the mid-1980s by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, April is recognized as the Month of the Military Child. During this month, military support organizations, and even the Pentagon, recognize the more than 1.2 million military children for the challenges they overcome and the sacrifices they make.

From long separation times from parents to having to adjust to new schools, new lifestyles, and being miles away from family — being a military kid comes with many challenges, some loneliness, and frustration.

Did you know that...

- Military children relocate 3 times more than civilian children?
- Since 2001, over 2 million children have had a parent who had to deploy at least once?
- The average military brat will change schools at least nine times before they graduate high school?
- About 42 percent of military children of active-duty service members are younger than five years old?

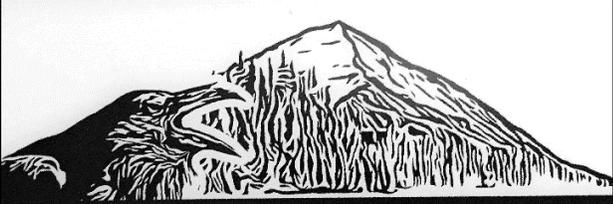
Military children take the challenges the military life throws at them and learn to bloom where they are planted — something that even adults struggle to do — which is why they deserved to be celebrated and acknowledged for their strength and adaptability.

Enjoy your month of March and enjoy the last vestiges of Winter. ❄️🌨️🌨️

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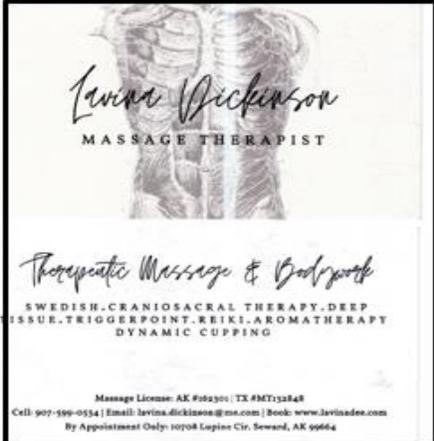
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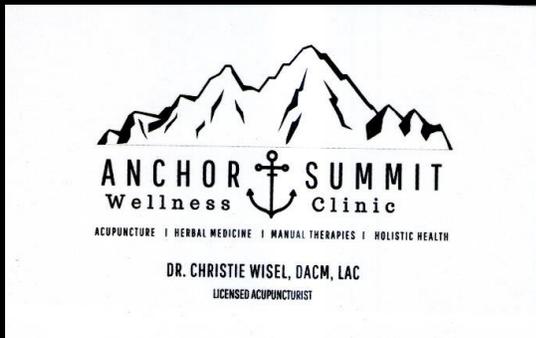


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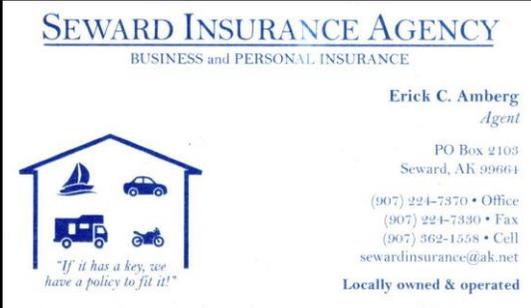


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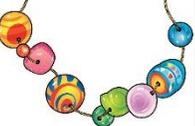
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\*  **MARCH 2023** 

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	B, B, M&C 2	Steak Night 3	4
 In like a lion Out like a lamb			"Bead Therapy" Class 6:00pm 	ALR Meeting 5:30pm  Pioneer Igloo #9 Meeting 6:30pm		 Pool League 7:00 pm
5	Chili Dogs & Chips 6	Taco Tuesday 7	8	B, B, M&C 9	Steak Night 10	11
Luscious Leftovers  Members only Poker 5:00pm	Bingo 6:30 pm  		Guest Chef Charlie Jackson - Salisbury Steak  Auxiliary Meeting 6 pm  Beading Class 6:00pm	SAL Meeting 7 pm 		Pool League 7:00 pm 
12	Chili Dogs & Chips 13	Taco Tuesday 14	15	B, B, M&C 16	17	18
Luscious Leftovers Daylight Savings Time Begins Members only Poker 5:00pm	K-9 Veterans Day  Bingo 6:30 pm	Post Meeting 5:30 pm 	American Legion Birthday 		St. Patrick's Day Corn Beef & Cabbage with all things Irish!!! 	 Pool League 7:00 pm
19	Chili Dogs & Chips 20	Taco Tuesday 21	22	B, B, M&C 23	Steak Night 24	25
Community Breakfast  Luscious Leftovers Members only Poker 5:00pm	Bingo 6:30 pm  					Officer Installation Dinner 6:00 pm Medal of Honor Day 
26	Chili Dogs & Chips 27	Taco Tuesday 28	29	B, B, M&C 30	Steak Night 31	
Luscious Leftovers  Members only Poker 5:00pm	Bingo 6:30 pm 		Vietnam War Veterans Day 			

**Happy Saint Patrick's Day!!!**



**FOOD SERVED EVERY NIGHT AT THE POST**