



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



We're in the Holidays now! We've just completed our community Thanksgiving meal at the post and it was once again a huge event of deliciousness! Thanks to the crew who consistently makes it happen; it's like a well-oiled machine at this point. Thank you all for returning every year! And, big a thanks to all the folks who donated turkeys and the homemade pies! We even had some new faces in the mix! I am always so humbled that these selfless people take time out of their busy lives during the holidays to help and serve others in our community. Thanks guys! You rock!



Even in this time of Covid we had a good amount of folks come to the post to celebrate with us and we had the opportunity to deliver the largest amount of yummy meals to folks who were working or are not able to get out and spend time with family and friends. We hope we made these folks' Thanksgiving a bit warmer, tastier and more comforting. Our volunteer cooks, aka "the Kitchen Crew," really met the mission and made it happen and the delivery drivers got the meals delivered with "style" and timing! It was a great time serving our fellow veterans and local community!



On Veteran's Day the Post held a tasty dinner to share with our membership and the community and to thank our veterans.

Of special note the **Seward Area Quilters** made several quilts and we were able to give many of our veterans an "honor quilt" for their military service. Some were so touched that it brought tears to their eyes. Thanks quilters, you made some beautiful quilts for our vets and really made their day!



Okay, onto December, we all have quite a bit planned not only in our own lives and jobs, but we have quite a few things planned at the post. It is of course the holiday season and we will be having our Christmas dinner as usual, so plan on a big and delicious meal.

The Auxiliary has the gift giving with Santa and Mrs. Claus for the youngsters in town giving out gifts to our local Seward kids at the post on December 12th, and we will be finishing making up and mailing out our "**Operation Apple Pie**" packages to our local Seward young men and women who are in the service.

Another event in December is the **National Guard Birthday** which falls on Sunday, December 13th. Since the Global War on Terrorism began the National Guard has been an integral part of this effort to combat terrorism throughout the world; as a matter of fact about 45% of the forces who were sent to Iraq and Afghanistan have been from the National Guard. Our citizen soldiers are on the front lines just as the regular military forces and they have been fighting side by side to protect us across the globe. And, in these days of civil unrest they're busy back at home.

An interesting item to take note of is the National Guard is the oldest military organization in America and was established in 1636. These dedicated citizen soldiers leave their jobs and families when called to serve, so on the 13th of December, take the time to thank and honor our National Guard, many of whom live and work right here in our community.



Speaking of the holidays, we're starting to get the post spiffed up for the season so come on by, see our progress. We like making the post a warm and inviting place for members to come and visit, celebrate the holidays and have a good time in a friendly place.



In Memoria

We have some sad news to report as one of our post members has been called to "Post Everlasting." Don Sutherland one of our Vietnam Veterans passed on 27 November and all of us from the Seward Post 5 Family sincerely send our condolences to his wife Marilyn and all the family.

Don was a force to be reckoned with and had a quick and "spirited" sense of humor. Once you met Don you wouldn't forget him. He was quick-witted and was always willing to engage in a lively banter and was a huge part of this community. Don was a long-time legionnaire and a PUFL, a 25 year member of the Seward Volunteer Fire Department as well as very involved in the Elks and one of our more notable ALR Riders.



Don was very civic minded and involved in the community as he served in years' past on the Planning and Zoning Commission and as the President of the Chamber of Commerce Board.

Don, you will be missed, and we look forward to meeting once again when we are all called to "Post Everlasting."

Pearl Harbor Day

On Monday morning, December 7, 1941, the American Army and Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy.

The attack came as a surprise to the American Army and Navy and led to great losses of life and equipment. More than 2,000 American citizens were killed and more than 1,000 were injured.

We also lost a large proportion of battle ships and nearly 200 aircraft that were stationed in the Pacific region. The attack began at dawn and crippled the US Pacific Fleet and caused the US to enter World War II. More than 60 Japanese servicemen were killed, injured or captured. The Japanese Navy also lost five midget submarines and 29 aircraft.

The Japanese military hoped that the attack on Pearl Harbor would prevent the U.S. from increasing her influence in the Pacific. However, the events in Pearl Harbor actually led to the escalation of World War II. The day following the attack, the U.S. declared war on Japan and so entered WWII. President Roosevelt, in a speech to Congress, stated that the bombing of Pearl



Harbor was "a date which will live in infamy". Shortly afterwards, Germany also declared war on the U.S. In the months that followed the attack, the slogan "Remember Pearl Harbor" swept the U.S. and radio stations repeatedly played a song of the same name.

In 1991, which marked the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Congress established the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Medal. This is also known as the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Medal and can be awarded to any veteran of the U.S.



military who were present in or around Pearl Harbor during the attack by the Japanese military. The medal can be awarded to civilians, who were killed or injured in the attack. On this day US flags are to be flown at half-staff.

US Troops Serving Overseas This Christmas

(excerpt from legion.org)

Service members serve on all seven continents — there is one service member in Antarctica — and on all the seas. Military personnel serve in more than 170 countries.

Our Service members are still deployed around the world during Christmas - we need to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

- Afghanistan: 14,000
- Bahrain: 7,000
- Iraq: 5,200
- Jordan: 2,795
- Kuwait: 13,000
- Oman: 300
- Qatar: 13,000
- Saudi Arabia: 3,000
- Syria: Unknown
- Turkey: Unknown
- United Arab Emirates: 5,000

Sailors will man their ships from the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Mexico. Navy officials maintain that roughly a third of the Navy is deployed at any one time.

Air Force missileers and airmen are in the silos, by the planes and in the command centers ensuring the nuclear system is ready if needed.



I'd also like to sincerely thank the crew of the USCGC **Mustang** who have consistently supported our post this year and in the recent years' past. Although in our times of Covid we don't get to see them much but know they are still patrolling our waters and keeping the mission going of ensuring our Nation's maritime safety, security and stewardship. They are and have been a great asset for our community and post supporting many projects and ceremonies over the years around the "post home."



I'd also like to acknowledge the Alaska National Guard's Honor Guard who participated in many of our ceremonies that provide the final respects to our members and other veterans who have passed to "Post Everlasting. Both the fine men and women of these organizations

demonstrate their maturity and willingness to take time out of their busy lives to help the community where they currently serve and to honor veterans and this great nation.

These fine young servicemembers understand the notion of "service." They have demonstrated that time and again; and have willingly (and enthusiastically) participated in our post activities and volunteer in our community service organizations in town that keep us all healthy and safe.

As we head into December it also means we're coming to the end of the 2020 membership year and the start of the 2021 year. I appreciate all who have joined or renewed and that shows we're a stable and growing post. With good numbers of members at the local, state and national level it allows us to continue to have a strong voice regarding veterans' medical, rehabilitative and educational benefits. These collective voices from over 12,000 posts nationally speak "volumes" and have influence on lawmakers and decision-makers regarding military members earned compensation for injuries and disabilities sustained while in the military. After all, one of the many roles of the American Legion posts is to provide service and comradeship to veterans, their families and the community. And how better done than helping a vet get healthy and receive the benefits and education which will assist him/her to be productive and viable in our community. The way we can help at this level is to be aware of what is going on in our community, helping others, promote community involvement, patriotism and volunteerism. We have a good crew in our Post 5 Family and have many who are dedicated volunteers (and we can always



use more ☺), so come on down and see what we do - we even manage to have a lot of fun helping others!

As we come to the close of 2020, I want to thank all in our Post 5 Family and our community for a good year of good deeds and good times even with Covid chasing us. I look forward to another good year of service and camaraderie as we continue in our **second century of service!** Soooo, come on down to the post; it is amazing how good it feels to be with like-minded people committed to service - doing good deeds to help others, especially your friends and neighbors.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice,

Snow and the Holidays. What a great combination and a good start to the winter. Hope you all had a good Thanksgiving.

I would like to thank all the wonderful and dedicated volunteers that helped the Post and Club host the Veterans Day dinner, the community breakfast, and the tremendous Thanksgiving meal. None of it would have been possible without all of you. I won't try to list everyone because I will surely forget a name or two. Just know you are all appreciated and have shown what a team effort can accomplish. Whether it was picking up food and supplies, preparing food, cleaning, bartending, delivering, decorating, or dealing with the logistics, it is all necessary. Kudos to you all. Now we look ahead to this month's activities.



We will host the Pioneer's of Alaska Igloo #9 meeting on Dec 3rd, the Auxiliary Unit 5 visit with Santa and gift giving on Dec 12th, our community breakfast on Dec 20th, and the Christmas meal on Dec 25th, New Year's Eve on the 31st. Many volunteers will be needed for these functions so let us know if you can help.

As always, our great volunteers make all these things possible.



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, 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.

We will be conducting two raffles before Christmas. One is for a Springfield Saint Victor AR-15 pistol with 7.5" barrel and adjustable brace, and one for a beautiful wood crafted hanging American flag. We will email flyers on these once the tickets are available for purchase.



We are still serving food every night for dine in or take out. We also have some masks available if anyone needs them.

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 seems to have arrived. Everyone have fun and be safe in the snow.

I would like to thank all the Squadron 5 members that helped with the Thanksgiving meal and other activities at the Post during November. As always, volunteers are what keep the organization moving forward and continuing to serve the community.



This month the Post will be having the community breakfast on Dec 20th and, of course, the Christmas meal on the 25th. Volunteers are always needed for these functions so let us know if you can assist.

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.

Bill of Rights Day 15 December 2020

As we celebrate the 229th anniversary of the Bill of Rights on December 15th- Bill of Rights Day we should look back at the origins and history of that day.

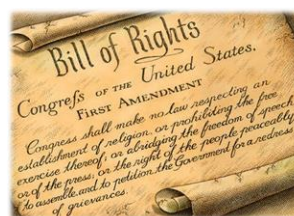
On December 15th 1791, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, later identified as the Bill of Rights, were ratified. James Madison was one of the original framers of the U.S. Constitution and studied the deficiencies in the U.S. Constitution authored many of these amendments. Some of these amendments protect our most fundamental rights - freedom of speech, the freedom of protest and assembly and conscience, right to bear arms, freedom from search without warrant, the right to an attorney, the right not to testify against yourself and guarantees equal protection under the law.

It is interesting to look at the English Bill of Rights, from 1689, and to compare it to the U.S. Bill of Rights, created 100 years later.

The English Bill of Rights was an act of Parliament that guaranteed the right of British subjects to petition the king and to bear arms. It also prohibited excessive bails, fines, and cruel and unusual punishment. The English Bill of Rights became part of the British Constitution and set a precedent upon which Enlightenment philosophers relied. Some of those philosophers lived in the American colonies, and they imported parts of the English Bill of Rights into the U.S. Constitution.



Madison's amendments were originally designed to extend the protection of some of the Bill of Rights to the states, however the amendments that were finally submitted for ratification applied only to the federal government. It wasn't until the 1860s that state governments benefitted, following ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment (equal protection under the law). Since the early 20th century both federal and state courts have used the Fourteenth Amendment to apply portions of the Bill of Rights to state and local governments.



In 1941, 150 years after the first 10 amendments were ratified, President Franklin Roosevelt declared December 15 "Bill of Rights Day."



In this day and age, it is even more important to read, understand and protect our rights, as many in our heightened political atmosphere keep trying to chip away at them.

From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel

As November comes to an end and we get into the height of the Holiday season there is a lot of activity going on at the Post

First a huge thank you to all those volunteers who helped with the Thanksgiving Day dinner. Once again it was a huge success and I heard about 114 meals were delivered out to the community with about 40-50 meals served at the Post. Without the volunteers who selflessly give their time to help out, we would not be able to accomplish all the programs we do.

On December 5th, the Auxiliary will be wrapping all the presents to be given out when Santa visits. Also we plan to do some decorating that day also so come on down- we can always use volunteers to wrap presents! We plan to start at 1 PM.



Santa and Mrs. Claus are coming to the Post. Unfortunately, this year due to COVID we will not be able to do our annual Fire Truck Parade with Santa. The Auxiliary still wants to make sure all the children can get a present from Santa so we will be doing a drive through Santa meet and greet. Families will drive up to the Post, let Santa's helpers know the age/gender of the child and then Santa and Mrs. Claus will bring the presents out to the children.

The Auxiliary is in the middle of doing their Holiday Baskets again. The first baskets went out just before Thanksgiving and we will be handing out more baskets about Mid December. A huge thanks to Stacey at Safeway for all her help in making this happen.



Again, the Post will be hosting Christmas Dinner on December 25th. Just like Thanksgiving the Post will need volunteers to help prepare the dinner and deliver it to those who request it.

As you enjoy the holiday season with all its activities, please remember our Military service members and Veterans who will not be home for the Holidays. The Post always does an Operation Apple Pie where it sends care packages to local service members who will not be home for the holidays. If you know of any local deployed military personnel please let the Post know so they can get them on the list to send a package to them.

Mid-year reports are due to the Department of Alaska in December. This is our opportunity to let the Department know all the activities and volunteer hours our Unit contributes to the



ALA programs. It is so important for members to track and Report their hours when requested. Please track your hours and volunteer service- we will submit year end reports in April.

Also please remember if you have not already renewed your membership for 2021- you need to do so. The 2020 cards are no longer valid after January 1 so get your renewal in now! Also we are already at 75% and would love to hit 100% early this year. The membership dues help us provide all the programs that we sponsor at the local, state and national level.

Hope you all have a Happy Holiday Season!

Legacy Scholarship Application Submissions Begin January 1st 2021

The American Legion's Legacy Scholarship provides college funding to children of post-9/11 veterans who died on active duty, or those who have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater.


To qualify and apply for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a high school senior and/or accepted at or attending an institution of higher education.
- The institution is of higher education, a nonprofit and regionally-accredited institution
- One of the two statements apply:
 - ✚ A legal parent died while serving on active duty, U.S. military service on or after September 11, 2001. (Does not have to be a death out-of-country or in combat.)
 - ✚ A legal parent is a Post-9/11 veteran of the U.S. military, who has been given a disability rating of 50% or higher by the Veterans Administration.

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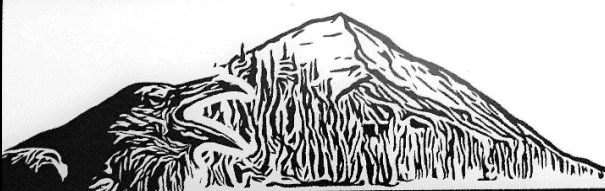
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BRASS BONES

Sam Clemons Jewelry Artist/Owner



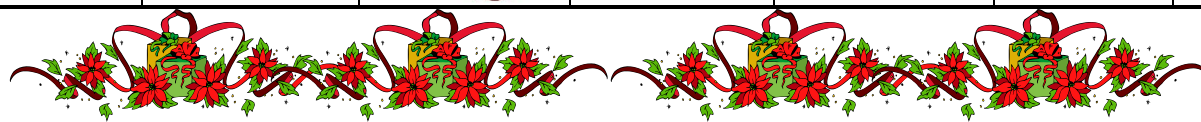
MERRY CHRISTMAS



December 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Mexican Martes 1	2	3	Steak Night 4	5
				Burgers & Bacon Mac and Cheese 	 gg6128996 Gistraph.com	 Pool League 7:00 pm
6	Pearl Harbor Day 7	Mexican Martes 8	9	10	Steak Night 11	12
Luscious Leftovers	Fly Flags at Half Staff  BINGO 6:30PM Chili Dogs 	Post Meeting 5:30pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm 	SAL Meeting 7:00 pm  Burgers & Bacon Mac and Cheese	 Hanukkah 	Santa At the Post  Pool League 7:00 pm
13	14	Mexican Martes 15	16	17	Steak Night 18	19
 National Guard Birthday Luscious Leftovers	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 			Burgers & Bacon Mac and Cheese 	  RACK'EM UP	Pool League 7:00 pm
20	21	Mexican Martes 22	23	24	Christmas 25	26
3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast Luscious Leftovers	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 			Burgers & Bacon Mac and Cheese  © Can Stock Photo	 Dinner 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm	Pool League 7:00 pm 
27	28	Mexican Martes 29	30	New Years Eve! 31	New Year's Day	
Luscious Leftovers	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 			Bring on the NEW YEAR! 	GOODBYE 2020 HELLO 2021 	



Food Served Every Night at the Post