



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

August 2019
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Summer is still running on with some really fabulous weather and I have to admit it has been amazing, at times a bit scary with everything drying out and all the fires throughout the state! I've never seen such consistently good weather without at least some clouds and a few sprinkles. I found myself at times wishing for the return of "Soggy Seward!"

The 4th of July was another success for the town, the runners and of course, our American Legion Family! We had enough BBQ ribs, and just enough for an encore performance for our renowned Luscious Leftovers!!!! 😊

We couldn't do what we do without the exceptional and dedicated volunteers who "rise to the occasion" to help us do what we do for our veterans, our community throughout the year. Everything you all did from prepping and cooking ribs, dishing out the fabulous chow to all our guests at the post or participating in the parade you made the day a huge success for all! Thanks for all you do and continue to do!

Even with the busy times that are somewhat predictable, we get those short notice "Opportunities to Excel" with our American Legion Family. Such an event occurred early Sunday morning, 28 July. Son's member, David "Ozzie" Osborn, the POC for the Bear Creek Fish Weir got a call for excess Sockeye Salmon. Ozzie sent out a call for help to "process" the fish, and the turnout was Outstanding! "The Crew," composed of representatives of all our Legion family showed up to the Military Rec Camp to process around 200 Sockeye Salmon. These salmon were filleted and vacuum sealed and were going to families and individuals in need in town! It was fast and furious, and they got it all done in record time! Huge kudos too to the Military Rec Camp for donating the cleaning station space and the vacuum seal bags!



This month has the Silver Salmon Derby going on in town and it will be very busy with visitors, which is good for our town and everyone who has a business. The long winter months with slower business traffic and higher operating costs put a burden on them as well as all of us who call Seward our home. With that in mind, if you can buy locally at the services, shops, and good restaurants that stay here and stay open for us even in the slower (and colder) times of year. But back to the Derby, good luck to all who participate, there are some good prizes to be won and not just good fish!



I'm not sure how much longer we will be having this fabulous weather; enjoy it while it lasts but be safe out there as you know our long sunny days wear you out and people can get hurt just by simply being tired.

July has been a busy month even after the 4th of July activities. We have had lots of visitors from out of town on their Alaska vacations, and we have been thrilled to have them stop by. Thanks for coming by and thanks to our fine Post 5 members who gave them a warm welcome.

I'd like to thank all who have consistently supported our post and our American Legion Family by coming to the club, and those who take the time to help out during or official functions and come to monthly meetings. Simply put, we wouldn't be here without your support at whatever level you choose to do so. As you know, the American Legion is a multifaceted organization with the mission of "mutual helpfulness," and that is what we strive to do in Seward. On a daily basis you can see the functioning of the club including our meals, the bar and nightly activities, all of which are designed to support and entertain our membership. Essentially, all you do from stopping by to socialize at the club, to participating in a fundraising auction or carrying a flag in one of our celebrations all helps in what we do and why we are here, and have been doing since the chartering of Post 5 in December 1919. BTW, this is our Centennial Year..... "Stay Tuned!"

I also want to thank all of our volunteer cooks and bartenders; with only one paid employee who essentially works seven days a week, your help has most definitely lightened the Club Manager's load.

And, for that I am very thankful for your thinking of Mike's workload and our organization by taking time out of your lives to help and support your post.



Some folks have said, *I really don't do much, I only come during this event or that, or wash dishes, etc.* - believe me, any event even with a small contribution of support goes a long way. You know the saying - "Many hands make light work"; and for any participation I am extremely grateful. Your efforts assist us in service to our veterans and our community. **THANK YOU!!!!**

We are one of the few American Legions in the state that has the privilege of having their own cemetery and we are also fortunate we have had over the years (and still do) some really dedicated people keeping things organized for all of us. Back when I first became associated with the post in 2006 as



the Service Officer I inherited the schematics on our cemetery and it became quickly apparent that very little information had been updated and maintained for well over 10 years. Fortunately, Heather Stone (past Unit President Unit #5) had quite a bit of background and personal information on the cemetery. I used this along with contacting the city for their information to start to get a handle on what we had. Fortunately, along came John Christensen who had recently joined the post and stepped up to the challenge of continuing to not only figure out who was where in the cemetery but undertook the project of restoration and repair of many of our headstones and markers; and he continued this project until he moved to the Lower 48.

Today, we have David Osborn who has taken the maintenance and care of the cemetery to the next level and has spearheaded the project to expand our useable grounds for the final resting place of veterans and members of our American Legion Family. Ozzie, along with the many volunteers who spend their time and talent to move this project forward - all for the benefit of our American Legion Family and the final transfer to "Post Everlasting."



We were also fortunate for many years with one of our local residents and post members Terry Pollard who donated his time and tractor to keeping the cemetery grounds in great shape. Terry passed several years ago but his

memory lives on with the construction of the shed for all the tools and the tractor for keeping the cemetery in great shape.

The efforts and quality of those I just mentioned in the preceding paragraphs are just an example of the outstanding members we have in our American Legion Family and shows what we're made of at Post 5. We have folks who quietly contribute with no expectation for reward or recognition, but their service and friendship would be so sorely missed if they were not here. We also would be, to coin the phrase, "in a hurt" if they weren't dutifully doing their thing in support of our American Legion Family.

In closing, I know I can't say it enough but thanks to all members of this American Legion Family and their support of this organization in its mission of "mutual helpfulness" in service to others.

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoun



Hello from the Second Vice,



Summer is flying by and the Salmon Derby is just around the corner. Nice summer now that the smoke is mostly gone and we have gotten a bit of rain as needed in between the stretches of nice and sunny days.

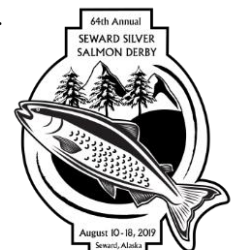
Great volunteers, as always, really stepped up and helped us get through the busy month of July.

The 4th of July Rib Feed was the main activity and there were too many volunteers to name everyone. Just know your time and effort is greatly appreciated. I would like to thank the Friday crew of Ozzie Osborn, Clare Sullivan, Sharon Dillon, Michelle Oliver, and Dave Joslin for taking care of the kitchen duties on our steak nights and Al Dykstra for keeping the grills in top shape. We could not have those great steak nights without you. Also, I want to thank Ozzie for his help with the crew dinner for the USCGC Anthony Petit. It was a big success. Finally, Melody, Ozzie, and Al did a great job at the community breakfast this past month. I want to thank all volunteers. Without you we would not be able to pull off all the activities and help the community the way we do.



Compared to May, June, and July, August will be a bit less hectic. The only planned activity we have is our community breakfast on August 18th. Of course, other things can come up and the Salmon Derby is August 10-18.

Top Prizes for Heaviest Fish
\$10,000 | \$5,000 | \$2,500
PLUS the entire weight of these winning fish in Silverhook Kaladi Brothers Coffee!!!!



The 2020 membership year is here. I want to thank everyone who has already renewed their memberships. 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. You can renew at the Post, mail in your renewals, or go online to MyLegion.org and renew. Renew early and qualify for the Early Bird Dinner in September.



Bingo is going strong on Mondays at 6:30 and we have food every night.



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.

It is starting out to be a nice second half to the summer. Lots of sun, a little rain as needed, and not much smoke. Let's hope it continues into the Salmon Derby.

I want to thank all Squadron members that helped with Post activities in July. It was a busy month and the help is always needed. Special thanks to Ozzie Osborn for his work at the cemetery the Post, to Al Dykstra for his help around the Post and Dave Dieckgraeff for his continuing support. Also want to thank Ozzie and Al for their help processing the salmon from the weir.



This month there will be the community breakfast on Aug 18th and whatever pops up we are not aware of yet so keep your volunteer hats on and ready to go.

The new membership year for 2020 is here so think about renewing early and qualify to attend the **Early Bird Dinner** in September. I thank all those who have renewed their memberships and ask everyone else to consider doing so. Membership is the cornerstone 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 Legion Act



The Legion Act is a bipartisan bill expanding membership eligibility for The American Legion. It was introduced March 8 in the House of Representatives. This bill has a lengthy title - The Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act — also known as the LEGION Act. With President Trump's signature on July 30th on the LEGION Act, the extension of the ongoing declared period of war (for eligibility) was extended back to Dec. 7, 1941. Previously, the eligibility was identified in seven congressionally mandated war eras, which had significant gaps that restricted a servicemember from joining The American Legion if their service fell outside those eligibility periods. Now, these service members, serving since Dec. 7th 1941, are eligible with proof of service and an honorable discharge.

The idea of the "founding fathers" of the American Legion is "a veteran is a veteran," an axiom that has held true throughout the organization's more than century of service. Some veterans were ineligible to join because of the war eras that were defined by Congress. The act expands membership eligibility to honorably discharged veterans that have served on federal orders in unrecognized times of war since World War II. The recent bill passage and president's signature has allowed those formerly ineligible men and women to gain membership.

Of note, the change for eligibility for the legionnaires applies to members of the Sons and Auxiliary as well.

We have more information at the post if you are interested or have any questions! This is a good thing for all in the American Legion Family! Please spread "the Word!"



From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel, Unit 5

As we move into August, I hope everyone has been able to enjoy some of this great summer we have been having. July again was a busy month for the Post Family. Of course, we had all of the activities celebrating the 4th of July. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped support the activities and make it another successful event.



Another big thank you to everyone who volunteers every week to help with Bingo. This is one of the best fund raisers that the Auxiliary has so it is very important to keep it going on a weekly basis. They can always use help so if you have some free time on Monday nights come on down to the Post.

July marks the beginning of the new membership year so you will be getting those renewal messages in the mail. Please remember to renew your membership. The membership dues support the mission of the ALA at the local, state and national levels. With the passage of the recent legislation to extend the years of eligibility for membership to the Post it will also increase the opportunity to increase the Auxiliary membership. IF you know people who had relatives that served in the military during years that were not previously eligible please let them know to check again as they may now be eligible to join.

The end of July again saw the Post family join together for a great cause. The Bear Creek Fish Weir donated between 180-200 fish to the Legion.

Several volunteers showed up on short notice with sharp knives and a great volunteer attitude to fillet and vacuum seal the fish which will be donated to veterans, active duty



military, senior citizens and others in the community that are in need. A special thank you to the Seward Military Resort for allowing us to use their facility and vacuum sealers - it made the process so much easier and faster.

The Auxiliary is looking at doing its annual fund raiser in September. More details to follow once the plans develop further. If you have items you would like to donate please let one of the Auxiliary members know.

August 4th is **National Coast Guard Day**. U.S. Coast Guard Day honors the military branch that protects our waters and shorelines. This day is largely an internal celebration for all Coast Guard personnel and their families. But, I'd

like to encourage everyone to honor these service members of this branch of the military. The USCG Mustang is stationed in Seward and the crew of the Mustang have always been great supporters of the Post 5 family. We would like to thank them and their families for their service and recognize the sacrifices they have made to serve. Also thank you for your support to the American Legion Post and the community.

Celebrate U.S. Coast Guard Day by learning more about the responsibilities and duties of the U.S. Coast Guard.

VJ Day (1945)

Victory over Japan Day (also known as **Victory in the Pacific Day**, **V-J Day**, or **V-P Day**) is a name chosen for the day on which the Surrender of Japan occurred, effectively ending World War II, and subsequent anniversaries of that event. Often times, the exact day of victory is has been found to be confusing. The term has been applied to both the day on which the initial announcement of Japan's surrender was made in the afternoon of August 15, 1945, in Japan, and because of time zone differences, to August 14, 1945, (when it was announced in the United States, Western Europe, the Americas, the Pacific Islands, and Australia/New Zealand), as well as to September 2, 1945, when the signing of the surrender document occurred. At that time President Truman declared September 2nd to be VJ Day. VJ Day formally marks the end of World War II and the end of fighting against Japan.



On September 2, 1945, a formal surrender ceremony was performed in Tokyo Bay, Japan aboard the battleship **USS Missouri**. In Japan, the day usually is known as the "memorial day for the end of the war"; the official name for the day, however, is "the day for mourning of war dead and praying for peace" this official name was adopted in 1982 by an ordinance issued by the Japanese government.



USS Missouri

It is important to remember these days in history and remember the men and women who served during this time. Many of them making the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

U.S. Coast Guard History

Extract from www.coastguard.com

The U. S. Coast Guard is simultaneously and at all times an armed force and federal law enforcement agency dedicated to safety, security, and stewardship missions. We save lives. We protect the environment. We defend the homeland. We enforce Federal laws on the high seas, the nation's coastal waters and its inland waterways. We are unique in the Nation and the world.



The Coast Guard official history began on **4 August 1790** when the first Congress authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the Revenue Marine and the Revenue Cutter Service, we expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew.

The service received its present name in 1915 under an act of Congress that merged the Revenue Cutter Service with the Life-Saving Service, thereby providing the nation with a single maritime service dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws. The Coast Guard began to maintain the country's aids to maritime navigation, including operating the nation's lighthouses, when President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the transfer of the Lighthouse Service to the Coast Guard in 1939. In 1946 Congress permanently transferred the Commerce Department's Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the Coast Guard, thereby placing merchant marine licensing and merchant vessel safety under our purview.



The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government and until Congress established the Navy Department in 1798 we served as the nation's only armed

force afloat. We protected the nation throughout our long history and served proudly in every one of the nation's conflicts. Our national defense responsibilities remain one of our most important functions even today. In times of peace we operate as part of the Department of Homeland Security, serving as the nation's front-line agency for enforcing the nation's laws at sea, protecting the marine environment and the nation's vast coastline and ports, and saving life. In times of war, or at the direction of the President, we serve under the Navy Department.



USCG Cutter Mustang in Seward Harbor

Operation Desert Storm (1990)

Extracts from GlobalSecurity.org
[National Security Archive](http://NationalSecurityArchive)

On the morning of August 2, 1990 the mechanized infantry, armor, and tank units of the Iraqi Republican Guard invaded Kuwait and seized control of that country. The invasion triggered a United States response, Operation **DESERT SHIELD**, to deter any invasion of Kuwait's oil rich neighbor, Saudi Arabia. On **August 7, deployment of U.S. forces began.**



United Nations Security Council Resolutions 660 and 662 condemned Iraq's invasion and annexation and called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces. On August 20 President Bush signed National Security Directive 45, "U.S. Policy in Response to the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait," outlining U.S. objectives - which included the "immediate, complete, and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait," and the "restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government to replace the puppet regime installed by Iraq."



F-15C Eagle of the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing, left side view, second day of the Air War at King Abdul Aziz Royal Saudi Air Base, Dhahran, Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia, 18 January 1991.



Patriot Missile ("Scud Buster") launcher

Saddam Hussein's rejection of diplomatic efforts to solve the crisis led to the decision to restore Kuwait's sovereignty by military force. The ensuing air war and the effects of the economic embargo decimated Iraq's military infrastructure, severed communication and supply lines, smashed weapons arsenals, and destroyed morale.



M1 tank, Desert Storm



Overall, the coalition air campaign accumulated a total of 109,876 sorties over the 43-day war, an average of 2,555 sorties per day. Of these, over 27,000 targeted Scuds, airfields, air defenses, electrical power, biological and chemical weapons, headquarters, intelligence assets, communications, the Iraqi army, and oil refining.

One can get some perspective on the scope of the Gulf air war by comparing it to some predecessors. The following table presents U.S. Army Air Forces, and U. S. Air Force bomb tonnage statistics extracted from various wars, compared with Air Force tonnage dropped in the Gulf War:

War	Tonnage	Length	Tonnage/Month
WW II	2,150,000	45 months	47,777.78
Korea	454,000	37 months	12,270.27
Vietnam	6,162,000	140 months	44,014.29
Gulf War	60,624	1.5 months	40,416.00

During **DESERT STORM**, the 10th ADA Brigade from Germany commanded a task force which included Dutch, US and Israeli Patriot batteries in defense of Tel Aviv and Haifa. ADA lieutenants were debriefed at the Israeli Defense Forces "Pentagon" after each Scud attack. Within twenty-nine hours of "wheels up" for the first aircraft, the TF 4-43 ADA was operational in Israel in two locations.

- TF 4-7 ADA (Patriot) deployed from Germany to Incirlik Turkey where they provided ADA protection to critical assets poised at Iraq's "back door".
- TF 2-43 ADA (Patriot) deployed from Germany & was attached to 11th ADA Brigade, providing Scud defense of King Khalid Military City in Saudi Arabia.
- TF 8-43 ADA (Patriot) deployed from Germany and provided general support to VII Corps.



After a 38-day air campaign, the **DESERT SABRE** ground offensive began with allied forces sweeping through Iraqi defenses. The Iraqi army was crushed after a mere 100 hours. Iraqi troops--tired, hungry and war-weary from six months of economic blockade and more than a month of relentless allied bombing--surrendered by the thousands.



A U.N. ultimatum, Security Council Resolution 678, followed on November 29, 1990. It stipulated that if Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein did not remove his troops from Kuwait by January 15, 1991 a U.S.-led coalition was authorized to drive them out. Early in the morning of January 17, Baghdad time, the U.S.-led coalition launched air attacks against Iraqi targets. On February 24, coalition ground forces begin their attack. On February 27, Kuwait City was declared liberated, and with allied forces having driven well into Iraq, President Bush and his advisers decided to halt the war. A cease-fire took effect at 8:00 the following morning

Purple Heart Day - August 7, 2019

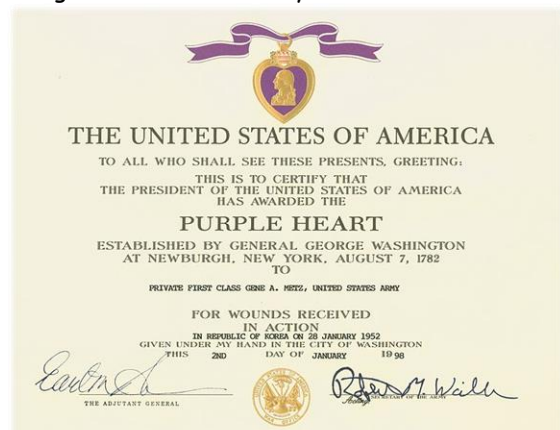


The **Purple Heart** is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the



President to those who have been Wounded or killed while serving on or April 5, 1917 with the U.S. military. This award was open only to enlisted men and granted them the

distinction of being permitted to pass all guards and sentinels as could commissioned officers. With its forerunner, the **Badge of Military Merit**, which took the form of a heart made of purple cloth, the Purple Heart is the oldest award that is still given to members of the U.S. military, the only earlier award being the obsolete Fidelity Medallion.



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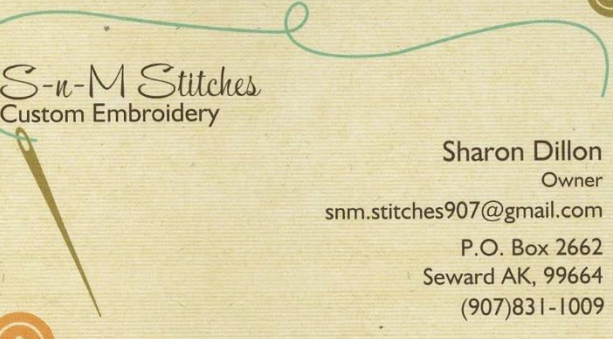
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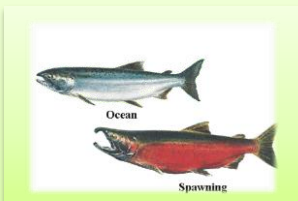
ADVENTURE SIXTY NORTH

Outdoor Adventure Center
Seward, Alaska

August 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Steak Night	2
				ALR Meeting 7pm 		
USCG Birthday 4		5 Mexican Martes			8 Steak Night	9 SSD  10
 <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<u>Luscious Leftovers</u> BINGO 6:30PM 		Purple Heart Day 	SAL Meeting 7pm 		Seward Silver Salmon Derby Region 
SSD  11	SSD  12	Mexican Martes 13	SSD  14	V-J Day 15	Steak Night 16	SSD  17
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	Post Meeting 7pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm 			
SSD  18	19	Mexican Martes 20		21	22 Steak Night	23
End of Silver Salmon Derby <u>Luscious Leftovers</u> 3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast	<u>Luscious Leftovers</u> BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 					
25	26	Mexican Martes 27		28	29 Steak Night	30
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>					

Have Fun at the Silver Salmon Derby in Seward!!
10-18 August 2019



Food Every Night at the Post!!!!