



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

July 2020
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Wow! We're in it now, well sort of.... Summer is here and it sure has been a very different one than I can remember. This Covid-19 sure has cramped our style but we're adapting as we go through all the closing, opening, modifying our operations! And huge kudos for all our members who have ridden this rollercoaster with us! I also want to acknowledge all the folks that have helped us through this difficult time and the many folks who have simply donated funds out of the blue to help us keep things going, particularly during the months we were unable to have our "social area" open and we were only able to provide meals to the public. As many of you know the "social area," aka the bar, is the way we pay our bills for the post home and you know how expensive it is to keep things going in the winter months to keep the lights on, the heat going and the doors open - even if we are cooking and providing donation only meals on a nightly basis. You all are helping us through a really tough patch! Thanks again!

Thank you!

We've been working hard at the post to beautify they post with flowers for our members and our town, and not to mention all the hard work out at the cemetery for Memorial Day and the weekly maintenance! Big thanks to Mike Calhoon and Debbie VanTassel for keeping up with that heavy lift at the cemetery. Many thanks too to Stephanie Mackey and Sharon Dillon for all the help planting the flowers in the front of the post, as well as



Bill Casey and Joanne Frey for donating those wonderful hanging baskets and maintaining our watering system! 😊 Speaking of the plants, I'd like to also like send a huge thank you to Carol Souza for the discount on the flowers for our post, we've got them all in the ground and are watching them grow!!

There have been so many who have done amazing work in contributing to our post home. Whether you're working at the cemetery, setting up or cooking for events or nightly meals, or simply patronizing our club for a meal or an "adult beverage," I am extremely grateful and exceptionally humbled by all who have taken time out of your busy lives to contribute in whatever capacity to our post and ultimately for our veterans and our community. Thank you for all you do!

We had a good June with Flag Day, the Army Birthday and our Father's Day Breakfast! And, once again Past Post Commander John Moline hosted several young men from Wounded Warriors in Action for a week of fishing, fine eating and great camaraderie at the post. Good times had by all!!! 😊



Well, here we are, and we were poised for another big event in Seward, the 4th of July! Unfortunately, the Covid thing has squashed this celebration for our town on a large scale but many have found other ways with family and "socially distanced friends" to celebrate this great country's birth!



With the onset of July, we are entering the 2021 membership year. Be sure to check your mail for your membership renewal, renew online at legion.org, or stop by the post and renew - and please bring a friend, especially if you like what we do for our post members and our community. As you know we try to serve where we can, and we can only do what we do with a strong membership and participation.

☺ Membership Eligibility ☺

The American Legion believes that membership in the organization should be extended to all U.S. military personnel who served on active duty during all wars and hostile events that are not seen as a "period of war." And, what that means is if you've served in the military and have an honorable discharge anytime since December 7th 1941 (or are still serving on active duty) you are eligible for membership in the American Legion. Please renew and consider joining we can only support our fellow veterans from a position of strength and membership is key to that strength!

Thank you all who renewed or joined, your support brought us to our 100% goal from the Department of Alaska!



From the Director

By Bobby Dunno



Well we have had some decent riding weather in June and can only hope that the minimal rainy days continue as we move into July. Well enough discussing the weather, on to ALR business. And I have to say it is nice having ALR Business to write about!

Even with the advent of summer many of us have not engaged in many group riding with the exception of a few rides to Wildman's for Ice Cream ☺. They canceled the Wounded Hero's Escort in August since they canceled the fishing tournament, yep I was bummed because that is probably the most fun and meaningful mission the ALR performs yearly with the exceptions of honor escorts we get called upon to do. That is going to be changing, we have the 4th of July and the ALR Alaska ROMP starting up. Now we have been informed that the 4th of July celebration and Parade in Seward has been canceled also but that does not mean we have to stay home. It is my intention to mount up the Flag on as many Bikes as possible and spend displaying those flags riding around town probably several times, it is our Country's Birthday and I intend to celebrate her. It seems especially appropriate considering the activities we see happening in our country today that someone gets Our Flag out a let her show off a bit!



The ALR Alaska ROMP will be the 17-19 of July and hosted this year by Jack Henry Post 1. Currently the plan is to gather the evening of the 16th at Post 1, with a ride to Sterling the following day for the celebration activities and Salute to Veterans that is taking place at the ABATE Rally. The plan is to spend the weekend in Sterling with the ride returning to Anchorage on Sunday the 19th. I have contacted the Riders at Post 16 in Homer and we will be coordinating with them to meet up and ride together to Anchorage on that Thursday the 16th. It should be an excellent weekend as usually the ROMP is a good time with friends and fellow riders.

As far as any other rides or plans for rides it is all up to us. I say worries about COVID should not interfere with great riding weather. If you get an itch to create some wind across your windscreen give a shout out to your fellow riders, they probably have a hankering to scratch that itch also. After all motorcycle riding is "social distancing" at its best! So, if or when you get an opportunity, **Get On Your Bike and Ride!**

From the President's Desk....

By Debbie VanTassel

Not sure where June went- it seems to have gone by very fast. Hard to believe we are already looking at July. It has been good to see things start to get back to "normal" around town.

Thank you to all those who helped with the Flag Day Ceremony. It was also good to see the WWIA Purple Heart recipients get to come enjoy several days of fishing with Current Affair Charters. This is a great program to recognize some of our great Veterans.

Again, I want to thank all the volunteers who contribute countless hours to support our veterans, active military, community, youth and families. Without the volunteers we would not be able to do any of the projects and activities that we do.

As we celebrate Independence Day it offers us a time to reflect and remember all of those who have fought and died to give us the freedoms and Independence that we enjoy in this country. From our Founding Fathers up to our current active military and veterans, they have all fought to preserve these values that we treasure. Hope you all have time to enjoy and celebrate the 4th.



On July 11th at 6 PM, the Auxiliary will have a Jr. Auxiliary graduation. Krysten Johnson Gray will be graduating from being a Jr. Auxiliary member to a Sr. Auxiliary member. During her years as a Jr. Auxiliary member Krysten has donated countless volunteer hours- helping with Sunday breakfasts, the Santa Parade, numerous fund raisers and many other projects. Krysten has also served as Department of Alaska Jr. Auxiliary President two times along with other offices at the Department level. Please come help the Auxiliary recognize Krysten for all her work as a Jr. Auxiliary member and we look forward to her being in the Sr. Auxiliary.

July also is the when membership renewals come out for the next year. Please remember you can still renew for 2020 if you haven't already done so. We are currently at 92% on our membership renewal, it would be awesome to hit 100%. Remember that membership dues are so important both at the local, state and national level to support many of the programs that the Auxiliary is involved in but especially for us to support our Veterans.

Hope you all have some time to get out and enjoy Alaska this summer. Stay safe.

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hope you are all having an enjoyable and safe summer. Seward has become a bit of a hotspot for covid-19 and the Post and Club personnel are monitoring the situation and taking appropriate actions to help mitigate further community spread.

We will be closed for a few days as our club and kitchen volunteers are tested to help ensure the safety of our members and their guests. We will let everyone know when the Post and Club reopen. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Due to the Covid -19 Virus and the mandated closures we will not get to celebrate the 4th of July as usual with BBQ Ribs and fixings but we will all manage to celebrate in our own fashion and will always remember what a great country we have the privilege to live in and will continue to defend.



If all goes well, we will have our community breakfast on the 19th. If that changes, we will be sure to let you know. If you would like to help with any of the activities or functions at Post 5 just let us know and we will gladly put you to work. ☺

The 2020 membership year has ended, and we reached our 100% membership goal. I want to thank everyone who renewed their membership or became new members. The 2021 membership begins on July 1st so you can renew online at mylegion.org, by mail, or in person once we are open. 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



Summer is rolling along with just the recent hiccup with the uptick in COVID cases in town. The Post is monitoring these events and will keep everyone informed. Squadron members are supporting all Post activities and functions.

Even though we were not allowed to celebrate the 4th in our normal big way we are still planning to do the community breakfast on July 19th, and any other activities that come about.

Moving forward things should continue to improve but there are still tough times to come. If you know of those in need be sure to let us know and we will try to assist as we can.

Remember that membership is the key to all the success of Squadron 5 and its support of the Post 5 family and the veterans and community of Seward. The 2020 membership year is winding down and I want to thank everyone who renewed their membership and those who became new members this year.

The 2021 membership year begins now and dues for this year will be \$35.00. We will let you know when we have our new membership cards and the renewal process can begin. 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. Please be safe, monitor the covid-19 situation in Seward and act accordingly.

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.

The current City Resolution for our operations during the pandemic is as follows:

Also, a huge thanks to the Extreme Micro-Clean for rapidly responding to do such a great job of cleaning our post and helping to keep our members and our community safe.



NOTICE:

After an engaging Special City Council session last night the City has determined that we will be able to operate at 50% capacity with the proviso that we ensure the use of masks and social distancing. As before we will have hand sanitizers throughout the bar and on all the tables. Once we have all the results back from all the testing of our staff and we are "good to go" with the cleanliness and sanitization of the post we will reopen the "Social Area." Stay tuned, I'll be sending out an email to notify everyone of our status! Thanks for your patience, respect, care & concern for our membership and community!

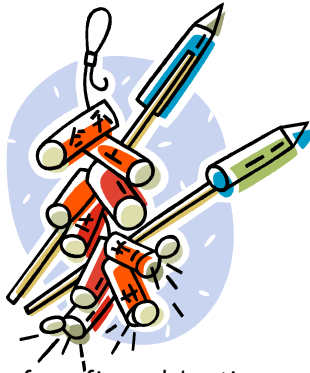
Sully

Fourth of July Facts

When the holiday was declared a holiday and although Independence Day is a legal holiday, it was not declared so until 1941. This was the date that signified the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

- The introduction of fireworks.

The 4th of July is synonymous with firework displays and are a staple in the celebration. How did they become so popular? Have they always been used? History shows that they were originally made in China and as early as the 11th century. This was during the time when the Chinese people used pyrotechnic mixtures for war rockets and explosives. We use them for a fine celebration of the end the war of independence and end of Great Britain's control on the "colonies."



- **Uncle Sam.** The 4th of July facts surrounding the term "Uncle Sam" was finally clarified and popularized during the War of 1812. This is when the term originally appeared on supply containers that held war materials. The "Uncle Sam" symbol became synonymous with servitude and devotion, as in Uncle Sam wants YOU. Although there was heavy recruitment taking place, Congress did not adopt Uncle Sam as a national symbol until 1961.

- **Two Facts.** Two very important but little known 4th of July facts show that 1) full support of the Declaration of Independence was not supported by all members of the Continental Congress and 2) a representative of Congress rode horseback 80 miles to reach Philadelphia and break a tie in support of independence.

- **The Liberty Bell.** Like the historical flag, the Liberty Bell was a very symbolic monument for Americans. However, the Liberty Bell has some 4th of July facts that many do not know about. Originally, there were two versions of the Liberty Bell. At the time of their manufacturing, one was found



to be defective and had to be melted and recast. The second bell was subsequently also found to be defective. It too had to be melted down and recast, therefore requiring a third version. Without any defective places, the third version of the Liberty Bell rang every Fourth of July from 1778 to 1835. According to history and tradition, as it rang, it cracked as it was being tolled for the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, the longest serving Chief Justice in the Supreme Court.

- **Our national poem.** A Wellesley College professor, Katharine Lee Bates, was the author of the patriotic poem "America the Beautiful" which was published on July 4, 1895.

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

- **Firsts.** Our country's first father, George Washington, held his first public office at the age of 17 and continued in public service until his death in 1799.



Facts such as these help to make our celebrating more meaningful and help to deepen our commitment to our country and in our service. As we celebrate Independence Day, we can find more reasons to be grateful for the country that we live in.

Declaration of Independence 1776

US Dept of State, Office of the Historian

By issuing the Declaration of Independence, adopted by the Continental Congress on **July 4, 1776**, the **13 American colonies severed their political connections to Great Britain**. The Declaration summarized the colonists' motivations for seeking their independence. By declaring themselves an independent nation, the American colonists were able to conclude an official alliance with the government of France and obtain French assistance in the war against Great Britain.



The Declaration of Independence

Throughout the 1760s and early 1770s, the North American colonists found themselves increasingly at odds with British imperial policies regarding taxation and frontier policy. When repeated protests failed to influence British policies, and instead resulted in the closing of the port of Boston and the declaration of martial law in Massachusetts, the colonial governments sent delegates to a Continental Congress to coordinate a colonial boycott of British goods. When fighting broke out between American colonists and British forces in Massachusetts, Continental Congress worked with local groups, originally intended to enforce the boycott, to coordinate resistance against the British. British officials throughout the colonies increasingly found their authority challenged by informal local governments, although loyalist sentiment remained strong in some areas.

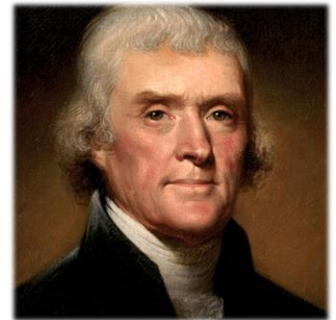
Despite these changes, colonial leaders hoped to reconcile with the British Government, and all but the most radical members of Congress were unwilling to declare independence. However, in late 1775, Benjamin Franklin, then a member of the Secret Committee of Correspondence, hinted to French agents and other European sympathizers that the colonies were increasingly leaning towards seeking independence. While perhaps true, Franklin also hoped to convince the French to supply the colonists with aid. Independence would be necessary, however, before French officials would consider the possibility of an alliance.

Throughout the winter of 1775-1776, the members of Continental Congress increasingly viewed reconciliation with Britain as unlikely, and independence the only course of action available to them. When on December 22, 1775, the British Parliament prohibited trade with the colonies, Congress responded in April of 1776 by opening colonial ports—this was a major step towards severing ties with Britain. The colonists

were aided by the January publication of Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense*, which advocated the colonies' independence and was widely distributed throughout the colonies. By February of 1776, colonial leaders were discussing the possibility of forming foreign alliances and began to draft the Model Treaty that would serve as a basis for the 1778 alliance with France. Leaders for the cause of independence wanted to make certain that they had sufficient congressional support before they would bring the issue to the vote. On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion in Congress to declare independence. Other members of Congress were amenable but thought some colonies not quite ready. However, Congress did form a committee to draft a declaration of independence and assigned this duty to Thomas Jefferson.



Thomas Paine



Thomas Jefferson

Benjamin Franklin and John Adams reviewed Jefferson's draft. They preserved its original form but struck passages likely to meet with controversy or skepticism, most notably passages blaming King George III for the transatlantic slave trade and those blaming the British people rather than their government. The committee presented the final draft before Congress on June 28, and Congress adopted the final text of the Declaration of Independence on July 4.

The British Government did its best to dismiss the Declaration as a trivial document issued by disgruntled colonists. British officials commissioned propagandists to highlight the declaration's flaws and rebut the colonists' complaints. The Declaration divided British domestic opposition, as some American sympathizers thought the Declaration had gone too far, although in British-ruled Ireland it had many supporters. The Declaration's most important diplomatic effect was to allow for recognition of the United States by friendly foreign governments. The Sultan of Morocco mentioned American ships in a consular document in 1777, but Congress had to wait until the 1778 Treaty of Alliance with France for a formal recognition of U.S. independence. The Netherlands acknowledged U.S. independence in 1782. Although Spain joined the war against Great Britain in 1779, it did not recognize U.S. independence until the 1783 Treaty of Paris. Under the terms of the treaty, which ended the War of the American Revolution, Great Britain officially acknowledged the United States as a sovereign and independent nation.

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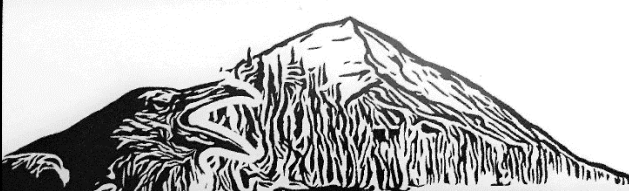
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BRASS BONES



Sam Clemons-Owner/Jewelry Artist



July 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	Independence Day 4
		The "Social Area" (aka the bar) will remain closed until all servers are tested and cleared and the post is cleaned for the safety of our membership. Thanks for your understanding!!!		ALR Meeting 5:30pm 		 Happy 4th of July
5	6	Mexican Martes 7	8	B,B, M&C 9	Steak Night 10	11
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<u>Chili Dogs</u>  BINGO 6:30PM 	Post Meeting 5:30pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm 	SAL Meeting 7:00pm 		
12	13	Mexican Martes 14	15	B,B, M&C 16	Steak Night 17	18
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  <u>Chili Dogs</u> 					
19	20	Mexican Martes 21	22	B,B, M&C 23	Steak Night 24	25
3 rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast  <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<u>Chili Dogs</u>  BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 					
26	Korean War Ends 27	Mexican Martes 28	29	B,B, M&C 30	Steak Night 31	
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  <u>Chili Dogs</u> 			SOULMATES 		



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!
UNITED STATES



Food Every Night at the Post!!!