

# For God and Country

**Seward Post 5 Newsletter** 

#### June 2019 Volume 16, Issue 06



American Legion Seward Post 5 E-mail: <u>americanlegionpost5@gci.net</u> website: www.<u>americanlegionpost5</u>.com <u>www.facebook.com/americanlegionpostfive.sewardalaska</u> twitter: https://twitter.com/ALSeward5 *Phone: (907) 224-5440* 



### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS By Clare Sullivan

Whew! Busy month in May!!! I'd like to thank everyone for all their hard work. May usually is one of our busier months, and you know we were busy all the time.



Our month of May was completely full and one of the busiest of the year and we were involved nearly every week with something that helped others in our community and required the help of lots of

amazing volunteers. I'll list the big events which were above and beyond our regular daily activities: Mother's Day

Breakfast, Third Sunday of the Month Breakfast, Armed Forces Day celebrations with the Chamber of Commerce, post and cemetery clean up, Armed Services YMCA Combat Fishing Tournament Banquet support, Marathon Wrestling Dinner



preparation, Memorial Day celebrations at the American Legion Cemetery.





Our American Legion Family with some other good folks in town accomplished a lot this month that helped honor our current military, to remember our departed fallen heroes, and help our Seward neighbors and their families. Your action speaks volumes of your character and your commitment to this community and our veterans. It is so appreciated and although we do not get a lot of fanfare or seek publicity for our activities, we do all with the right motivation and incredible dedication because we all know and care about our mission of support. I have to admit, it is sometimes a bit demanding on all of us with all our busy schedules, but with lots of good folks who continually step up to the plate, it makes it easier on everyone! I thank you all; your selfless service makes the difference for our American Legion and for many in this town.



I would like to list everyone who was involved in all these activities but I think I'd have a 10 page newsletter in order to get everyone listed. That might not be the best use of my space here but if you get an opportunity, please take a look at our facebook page. You'll get a good idea of what we do and what we've accomplished. There is an "album" for each of our events and you can see our American Legion Family "in action." © We have some pretty special people in our organization!

This month looks to be another good month, just not at the same frenetic pace. <sup>(3)</sup> We should be able to schedule ourselves with expected activities including our weekly events that you'll see on the calendar, plus of course we will have a Flag Day Ceremony on Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at around 6pm and Father's Day Breakfast on Sunday June 16th.



Flag Day, like our other important patriotic

holidays, is necessary to preserve our significant history and to educate and keep traditions alive. Observing Flag Day does not just honor a great flag but it also reminds us of where we have been as a young country fighting for our freedom, and the incredible journey we have travelled to be the great nation that we are now. The road to where we are has been paved with bravery and the blood of those who found it worthwhile to keep pursuing our ideals of freedom and



justice. As life's events compete for our attention, these patriotic holidays frequently get shelved or receive token attention. Sometimes the overt demonstration to display patriotism is met with a bit of resistance, condescension or hesitancy simply because the observances have taken the backseat to other unrelated activities surrounding the day. With that said, we have the obligation as members of the American Legion Family to keep these traditions alive and inspire others by our actions of our love of country.

Please consider reading up on our patriotic holidays, particularly Flag Day for this month and fly the flag. We have a great country and all our patriotic holidays are so very important to us as a nation and continuing as a free people.

For God and Country

# Directors Notes.... By Bobby Dunno



This summer's motorcycle season has been one of dodging the weather but we have had the chance to get some fair amount of riding done. Of course, I might also have done more riding if I had not bruised myself up wiping out during the "test ride" of Debbie's bike a few weeks back. But we have not been completely idle. The American Legion Riders of Post 5 had one dessert auction raising over \$175.00 for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund or as we call it the "Legacy Run" and another scheduled for the end of May but as of the time I wrote this article it was still in the future. Regardless we still are happy for the support we receive each time we hold one of these auctions especially when Pinky shows up with her delectable dishes and we see the results flow into our funds we channel towards the Legacy Scholarship Fund.





As we move into June there are several rides and activities planned, with the first being the Combat Vets Kenai Run on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. The following weekend on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June is another ride with the Combat Vets Bulldog Memorial Ride honoring Fred "Bulldog" Becker IV. Bulldog was a great defender of veteran rights and a well-known motorcycle enthusiast and member of the Combat Vets Motorcycle organization. Of course, providing that we see an increase the amount of sunshine there is always the possibility of a few Ice Cream Runs or dare I say a Ride for Pie! Providing the planning gets done we are hoping to have the Peninsula Patriot Ride promoting ALR membership and perhaps getting enough interest to reboot the Chapters at Post 20 in Kenai or Post 17 in Ninilchik, so if 22<sup>nd</sup> this ride comes to pass it will be sch or 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Our next scheduled event will the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade if you're a member of the ALR or a member of the American Legion Family with and motorcycle looking to participate, show off and maybe join the ALR come on out and join us to ride in the parade and eat ribs and baked beans at the Post when it over. The parade is always a fun happening and hopefully we might get real lucky and have a nice day with no rain to ride in. But regardless if you have a bike it is that time to make the time, check 'em out, warm them up, and Get On Your Bike and Ride.





# Flag Day Celebrated June 14, 1777

Flag Day! On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation establishing a national Flag Day on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Many Americans celebrate Flag Day by displaying the Red, White and Blue in front of homes and businesses. The day commemorates the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States.

According to American legend, in June 1776, George Washington commissioned Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress, to create a flag for the new nation in anticipation of a declaration of its independence.





On June 14, 1777, John Adams spoke about the flag at a meeting of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He said, "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new

constellation." There have been twenty-seven official versions of the flag so far; stars have been added to it as states have entered the Union. The current version dates to July 4, 1960, when Hawaii became the 50th state.

Many Americans sing, pledge, and pay respect to the flag, "Old Glory," as a symbol of the country's democracy and independence. Saluting the flag is a way to celebrate and honor the United States of America.

#### Seward, Post 5 Newsletter

## House and Vice Report..... By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

We all survived the busy month of May because of the great volunteer spirit that exists in the Post 5 Legion Family! You are all awesome and deserve all the credit for the success of the functions and activities we sponsor and support. I also want to thank the volunteer bartenders and all the volunteer kitchen help that put in extra time during this busy month. You all really stepped up and help make things run smoothly.

Keep that volunteer spirit going because this month we have Flag Day on June 14<sup>th</sup>, support of the new Bike Park Hotdog BBQ on June 15<sup>th</sup>, Father's Day breakfast on June 16<sup>th</sup>, plus continuing work to maintain and improve the cemetery throughout the summer. Let us know when and where you can help, and we will gladly put you to work. Also, remember that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is coming soon.

At the Club, we have three new BBQ grills on the back deck and a new beer cooler behind the bar. The portable bar worked great at the Combat Fishing Banquet and will be used on the  $4^{th}$  of July in our beer garden.

June 8<sup>th</sup> we will be supporting the memorial service for Don Lynch. It will be at the Legion Cemetery at 1:00pm.

The end of the 2019 membership year is approaching. We are nine memberships away from reaching our goal for 2019. If you have not yet renewed, please consider doing so. If you know a veteran who may be eligible to renew please bring them by or have them give a call so we can discuss membership with them. 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.



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.

Kudos to all Squadron 5 members that helped the Legion Family successfully navigate the month of May. Overall, May is the busiest month for Post 5 and all the great support Squadron 5 gives makes it much easier to accomplish everything that needs to be done. Thank You!!

This month we will be able to support Flag Day activities, Father's Day breakfast, and ongoing cemetery upkeep, maintenance, and improvement. Be sure and contact David "Ozzie" Osborn or the Post to find out where you can help.



The new membership year is approaching but it is not too late to renew for 2019. 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.



#### Seward, Post 5 Newsletter

## From the Presiden'ts Desk....

#### By Debbie VanTassel

WHEW!! What a whirlwind of activity during May. And once again, I have to send a huge thank you out to all the volunteers who so graciously and selflessly donate their time to fulfill the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion.

The beginning of May saw many volunteers finishing up the work on the Legion Cemetery expansion. This was a massive project and involved many people to accomplish. If you have not been by to see it, it really does look amazing. Also, the poppy cans were put out throughout the community to support National Poppy Day on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

Of course, the great cooks in the kitchen prepared wonderful breakfasts for Mother's Day and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday breakfast.

The YMCA Combat Fishing Tournament was another huge success. Again, many volunteers came out early to help get the Active Duty folks checked in for their fishing trip and then off to the Post to help prepare the awesome meal for the banquet. It is always well attended and the military personnel who get to come down and participate are so appreciative of all that is done. It is always a special way for us to say Thank You to them for their service.

As soon as Combat fishing was completed all attention turned to the Memorial Day ceremony. It was awesome how many people turned out on a rainy drizzly day on Sunday to put up the crosses and poppies. The ceremony on Monday was well attended and many comments were made about what a great program it was. Thank you to Post Commander Clare Sullivan for putting it all together.

As always, Bingo is held every Monday night at the Post. Thank you to Sharon, Michelle, Bobbi, Clare, Dan, Charlie, Mike and all those who help make this happen every week.



As we enter into June, it appears to be a little slower. Kyrsten Johnson- Gray will be representing the Post 5 family at the ALA Girl's State. This is a wonderful program for High School Juniors and Kyrsten will learn so much about our government and how it works.

Of course, we will have the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday breakfast and Father's Day breakfast which occur on the same day this month. Come on down for a great breakfast.

June 6<sup>th</sup> is the Anniversary of D-Day- On June 6, 1944, more than 156,000 American, British and Canadian troops stormed 50 miles of Normandy's fiercely defended beaches in northern France in an operation that proved to be a <u>critical turning point</u> in <u>World War II</u>.



Flag day is June 14<sup>th</sup> and the Post will have a ceremony to retire flags which can no longer be flown. Please take a look at the article about Flag Day.

## United States Army Birthday,

By John R. Maass, Historian US Army Center of Military History

When the American Revolution broke out, the rebellious colonies did not possess an army in the modern sense. Rather, the revolutionaries fielded an



amateur force of colonial troops, cobbled together from various New England militia companies. They had no unified chain of command, and although Artemas Ward of

Massachusetts exercised authority by informal agreement, officers from other colonies were not obligated to obey his orders. The American volunteers were led, equipped, armed, paid for, and supported by the colonies from which they were raised.



In the spring of 1775, this "army" was about to confront British troops near Boston, Massachusetts. The revolutionaries had to reorganize their forces quickly if they were to

stand a chance against Britain's seasoned professionals. Recognizing the need to enlist the support of all of the American seaboard colonies, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress appealed to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia to assume authority for the New England army. Reportedly, at John Adams' request, Congress voted to "adopt" the Boston troops on June 14, although there is no written record of this decision. Also on this day, Congress resolved to form a committee "to bring in a draft of rules and regulations for the government of the Army," and voted \$2,000,000 to support the forces around Boston, and those at New York City. Moreover, Congress authorized the formation of ten companies of expert riflemen from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, which were directed to march to Boston to support the New England militia.



Washington received his appointment as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army the next day, and formally took command at Boston on July 3, 1775.

# The History of Flag Day

The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. BJ Cigrand, a schoolteacher, arranged



for the pupils in the Fredonia, Wisconsin Public School, District 6, to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. In numerous magazines

and newspaper articles and public addresses over the following years, Cigrand continued to enthusiastically advocate the observance of June 14<sup>th</sup> as 'Flag Birthday', or 'Flag Day'.



On June 14, 1889, George Balch, a kindergarten teacher in New York City, planned appropriate ceremonies for the children of his school, and his idea of observing Flag Day was later adopted by the State Board of Education of New York. On June 14, 1891, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia held a Flag Day celebration, and on June 14<sup>th</sup> of the following year, the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution, celebrated Flag Day.

Following the suggestion of Colonel J Granville Leach (at the time historian of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution), the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America on April 25, 1893 adopted a resolution requesting the mayor of Philadelphia and all others in authority and all private citizens to display the Flag on June 14th. Leach went on to recommend that thereafter the day be known as 'Flag Day', and on that day, school children be assembled for appropriate exercises, with each child being given a small Flag.



Two weeks later on May 8th, the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution unanimously endorsed the action of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames. As a result of the resolution, Dr. Edward Brooks, then Superintendent of Public Schools of Philadelphia, directed that Flag Day exercises be held on June 14, 1893 in Independence Square. School children were assembled, each carrying a small Flag, and patriotic songs were sung and addresses delivered.

In 1894, the governor of New York directed that on June 14 the Flag be displayed on all public buildings. With BJ Cigrand

and Leroy Van Horn as the moving spirits, the Illinois organization, known as the American Flag Day Association, was organized for the purpose of promoting the holding of Flag Day exercises. On June 14th,

American Flag Day Association

1894, under the auspices of this association, the first general public school children's celebration of Flag Day in Chicago was held in Douglas, Garfield, Humboldt, Lincoln, and Washington Parks, with more than 300,000 children participating.



Adults, too, participated in patriotic programs. Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior, delivered a 1914 Flag Day address in which he repeated words he said the flag had spoken to him that morning: "I am what you make me; nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of yourself."

Inspired by these three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day - the anniversary of the Flag Resolution of 1777 - was officially *established* by the Proclamation of

President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949,



that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.



### Seward, Post 5 Newsletter

Since not everyone can get to Facebook, I thought I would add a few select photos of the events and our great volunteers for the past month's activities. We have some great volunteers in our Seward Post 5 American Legion Family...

### Armed Forces Day and Bike Blessing





Combat Fishing Tournament Banquet





<u>Memorial Day</u>





### Memorial Day Con't



<u>Cemetery Clean Up</u>



Mother's Day



### **Cemetery Expansion**







Thanks to all who attended and participated in all our May events!

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