



Veterans Strengthening American

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



We've rolled into a wonderful (and wetter) Fall and much cooler weather! Wow! What a busy summer! We had a great time meeting other veterans from all over the country in our "social area!" We also had the opportunity to see more of our members who otherwise would be elsewhere in the summer. Fortunately, most of our members who survive on summer tourists did great, but I think they are very happy the season is over as it was extremely busy as soon as the weather turned good in the late spring.

We're continuing our nightly free meals. And, offering the meals in our "social area" for our membership and those in need, and offer a "to go" meal for those with busy schedules and still practice the social distancing.

I was a bit worried that Autumn blew by us when we had a bit of termination dust creeping down the mountains, but it looks like we're still going to have some good Fall before the snow hits. It really is spectacular here during this time of year!



With the cooler weather we also get back into our Winter projects and activities, and we'll continue our fundraising events for our veteran and youth programs.

To start the Fall activities, we had a tasty **Early Bird Dinner** with a great crowd on September 24th which was a yummy Chicken Cordon Bleu and bacon wrapped chicken. 🍗 We're planning too for our Winter fun with Poker, Cribbage, Pool League, of course Bingo and who knows what else!!!! 🎲

Thanks for all the hard work of our volunteers to get the dinner going, and huge kudos for the tasty and beautifully decorated Early Bird cake by Claire Glotfelty!!!



We also were grateful for the City of Seward who produced proclamations for American Legion Day, POW MIA Remembrance Day and Patriot Day. THANK YOU!!!

Veterans' Day is right around the corner, followed by Thanksgiving to get us going into the Holiday Spirit. The Auxiliary will also be working toward hosting Santa and Mrs. Claus in early December when they come to town and then give out gifts to all the kids who come and brave the elements to meet Santa, Mrs. Claus and an elf or two! 😊



The post will also be starting to get the packages organized for our yearly **"Operation Apple Pie"** where we send out gift and care packages to our young service men and women from Seward who are serving their country and who are away from home. We like to let them know we're thinking of them and want to send them a reminder that we appreciate what they are doing for this great country. comforting and remind them of home.

As a reminder we will be having the **Department Commander's Visitation Dinner on Saturday, 29 October**. It is a fun time; you get to meet a lot of good folks from outside our post and have a really yummy dinner! What could be better!! 😊

Again, I can't thank our volunteers too much! You are the heart and soul of this place and we so enjoy moving the "mission forward" with you to support our veterans, their families and of course our fabulous community of Seward!



From the President's Desk

By Sharon Dillon



Hello, and welcome Fall and all the cooler weather that comes with it! Remember as the weather gets cooler our utility bills go up so throw on a sweater if needed, and look out for your neighbor who might need some help. We're here for our veterans and our community, and work to live our motto of "Service, Not Self."

Remember Bingo is every Monday night and this month we'll have five Mondays (Yay!!!) The last Monday is Halloween so come in costume!!!



🎃👻🧛🦇🧛🦇 The doors open at 6:00 PM and we start playing at 6:30 PM. Come on down and help support the Auxiliary. All our proceeds from Bingo and pull tabs go to programs that help right here in the community. And for those who come to Steak Night, we've started a Split the Pot Raffle to add to our fundraising efforts to help where we can in Seward.

Thank you

Thanks to all the volunteers that keep the games going! And, thanks to the many players who have been consistently coming out to support the Auxiliary and have some fun on Monday nights.

Now, as we move into the cooler months, we will be doing many of our annual projects such as Holiday Food Baskets and the Santa Parade involving the local fire departments with Santa and Mrs. Claus handing out gifts for the community's kids. I'll be reaching out in the next month or so for volunteers to help with these fun events.



A Few Important Dates to Remember in

October

October 4 - Local Voting Day (City Hall)

October 5 - Yom Kippur

October 10 - Columbus Day

October 13 - US Navy Birthday

October 26 - National Day of the Deployed is celebrated annually, this day celebrates and honors the soldiers who are deployed around the globe.

October 29 - Department Commander Visitation at the Post.

The Auxiliary President and Secretary will also be visiting as well. It is a good time to meet others in the Legion and Auxiliary. **It is a fun time for all, mark your calendar!** 😊 And, by that time the post will be all decked out for Halloween so come on by for a yummy dinner, fun and get the opportunity to meet some really great folks!

Moving on briefly for the next month, an important date for the national organization of the American Legion Auxiliary is November 10th. The Auxiliary was formed on that day in 1919!!! Happy 103rd Birthday! **Our Unit # 5 will be celebrating its 100th birthday in January 2023!** Quite the milestone!!! Standby for more!!!

November 11th is **Veterans Day**. Veterans Day annually falls on November 11th. This day is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice, which ended the World War I hostilities between the Allied Nations and Germany in 1918. Veterans are thanked for their services to the United States on Veterans Day.

Sounding Off from the Sons....

By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

A little snow in the mountain tops and some sun down here. Hoping for a nice fall season.

I want to thank all Squadron members who continue to volunteer their time and effort in support of the mission of the Post 5 family. Al Dykstra, David Osborn, and Scott Wilde continued their volunteer support both in the kitchen and outside with lawn care both at the Post and the Cemetery. Also want to thank Mike Mooter for prepping the grave site for the Dennis Isaacson funeral on October 1st. Great Job!!

This month the Post will be hosting the community breakfast will be on October 16th and the Department Commander's Visitation Dinner on October 29th. Other activities will be announced to the membership.

Squadron Commander Mike Mooter will be attending the Fall Conference on October 22nd so let him know if you have questions, suggestions or comments for the Detachment of Alaska leadership.

The 2023 Membership year is in 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.

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice!

Looks like Fall has arrived in nice fashion with a beautiful sunny day! Good start to this season.

I want to thank all our members for their continued support of the Post and Club. Whether it was helping with breakfast, cemetery or Post vegetation maintenance, hosting active-duty personnel from ALCOM for dinner or the Coast Guard personnel from San Francisco, helping with the Suicide Prevention Walk & BBQ and manning the information table, or bartending, cooking, and cleaning at the club... the volunteers, as always, stepped up and insured the mission was completed. You are all awesome.

This month our members only pool league will begin on October 1st, we will have our community breakfast on October 16th and we will have the Department Commander's Visitation Dinner on October 29th. We will begin Halloween decorating on October 8th and that is always a big undertaking. Also, we will try to mow and trim the cemetery one more time before hibernation begins. Thanks again to Scott Wilde for one last mow and trim at the Post and to Jackie Wilde for the great job trimming back the rose bushes.



**JOIN OR
RENEW
TODAY**

The 2023 membership year is rolling along, and you can renew online at 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.



Commander's Comments Continued

After all the announcements of what we're going to do in the next month and beyond, I'd like to take a moment to thank all the amazing people that continually come to the Post and help. From cooking, to washing dishes, mowing the lawn and weed whacking at the cemetery and around the Post, fundraising, setting up for our events and holidays, and very importantly being there for others in our American Legion Family who at times, need some help. It is a comforting feeling to know there are folks out there looking out for you even as diverse and often-times opinionated group as we can be!!! 😊 That is what makes us special at Seward Post 5. We're all so very different but we have that military experience that binds us together. We all come from dissimilar places, and we all learned to appreciate others irrespective of where the originate because it is mission first, and frequently we find people unlike us have a unique approach that gets things done sometimes better than we could have accomplished it. We are all the better to have lived and worked with them!

I have also discovered over the many years at the Post the heart and soul of our organization isn't who put in the most work (although hugely appreciated) it is those who care enough to come to help here time and again, as we work our mission of service. Some can only do a little, others have more time, but we do the work with an "attitude of gratitude" for the service and sacrifices of those who have gone before us and we continue that work in the tradition to support our veterans, their families and our community. Thank You!!!!

On a sad note, over the last few months one of our Post 5 members has passed to **Post Everlasting**. Dennis Issacson, an US Army veteran, served in Vietnam. Dennis was a long time Seward resident was laid to rest today 1 October in our Post cemetery. The day was unexpectedly beautiful, and in attendance were close family and friends.

Thank you SPC Joshua Jurva & SGT Ciera Bell of the Army National Guard for participating and presenting the flag to his family; and big thanks too to Post members **Jared Wallace, Nick Chapman, Brandon Mason and Cody Gilmore** for being the Firing Detail and pallbearers for a veteran who served honorably.





Member Spotlight

Dan Oliver, a retired Coast Guard Officer (O6) has been a member of Seward Post 5 for many years and is on our Executive Board and is also one of our splendidous bartenders as well. 😊 In addition to that "resume" he has an amazing skillset of understanding the Arctic Waters and navigating through them thanks to all his years of work in the Coast Guard and traversing through the waters throughout the world.

In the picture above, working his "retirement gig" he is about 75 miles north of Kaktovic on the ice. He currently is out on the University of Alaska College of fisheries and Ocean Sciences Research Vessel (R/V) the *Sikuliaq* and is currently back in open water near the ice edge. The *Sikuliaq* has an autonomous underwater vehicle which is cruising around and they monitoring it. He is not sure how long they will be there, but their location currently is 73-38.2N, 148-49.6W, winds are 13 kts, water temp is 32 and air temp is 28. Brrrr... not the warmest Autumn weather!!!!

He reports that they'll be heading towards open water to do some test dives with an autonomous underwater vehicle for about 5 days and then onto the next research project and location.

Have fun "Dan the Man," stay safe and come on back soon.... People are asking about your world famous Red Beans and Rice!!!! 😊



So what is the R/V *Sikuliaq*?



Info taken from the UAF College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences website. See more by clicking on the photo above or the links to navigate to their site.

R/V *Sikuliaq*, pronounced [see-KOO-lee-awk], is a 261-foot oceanographic research ship capable of bringing scientists to the ice-choked waters of Alaska and the polar regions. *Sikuliaq*, one of the most advanced university research vessels in the world, is able to break ice up to 2.5 feet thick. Constructed at Marinette Marine Corporation, a shipyard in Marinette, Wisconsin, *Sikuliaq* is homeported in Seward, Alaska, at UAF's [Seward Marine Center](#).



The vessel is owned by the [National Science Foundation](#) and operated by the [College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences](#) at the [University of Alaska Fairbanks](#), as part of the U.S. academic research fleet. It is used by scientists in the U.S. and international oceanographic community through the [University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System](#). UAF's [Sikuliaq Ship Committee](#) provides scientific oversight of *Sikuliaq*.

The need for a more capable ship to operate in the coastal and open ocean waters of the Alaska region was first recognized by marine scientists in the United States in 1973. In 2001, Congress appropriated \$1 million for a design study. After 36 years of development and the consideration of multiple vessel designs, construction began on the ship in December 2009. The vessel was designed by The Glostien Associates, a marine architecture and engineering firm in Seattle. Sufficient ice strengthening allows *Sikuliaq* to work safely in moderate seasonal ice, operating over a longer period than formerly possible in the North Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Alaska, and the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas. The design is based on science mission requirements developed by the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System community.

Sikuliaq has accommodations for up to 24 scientists and students per cruise, including those with disabilities, to conduct multidisciplinary studies and to facilitate broadband real-time virtual participation of classroom students in expeditions, including remotely operated underwater vehicles. *Sikuliaq* supports the collection of sediment samples from the seafloor, remotely operated vehicles, the use of a flexible suite of winches to raise and lower scientific equipment, and surveys throughout the water column and sea bottom using an extensive set of research instrumentation. The vessel is designed to have the lowest possible environmental impact, including a low underwater radiated noise signature for marine mammal and fisheries work.

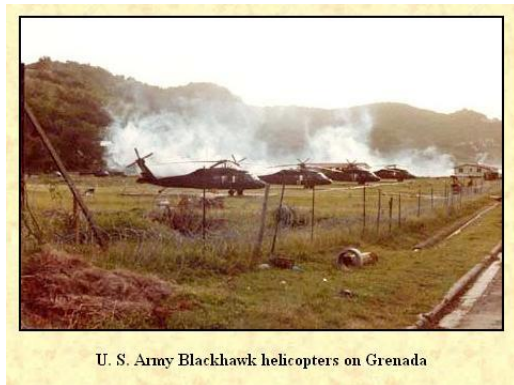
Operation Urgent Fury

25 October 1983

In 1983 the United States invaded the island of Grenada and overthrew the communist government in favor of a pro-Western one in a span of less than two months. Problems between the US and the Caribbean nation began in 1979 (while the Cold War was still in effect) when a bloodless coup placed the pro-Marxist Maurice Bishop as the Prime Minister, which led to strengthened ties between Grenada and communist nations like Cuba and the Soviet Union.



Bishop was eventually murdered in October of 1983 during a power struggle with hard-liners in his own movement, creating a breakdown in civil order that threatened the lives of American medical students who were living on the island. In response, and at the request of allied Caribbean nations, the US launched "Operation Urgent Fury," sending the Marines to the north of the island and Army Rangers to the south.



U. S. Army Blackhawk helicopters on Grenada

During the fighting, the US suffered from lack of sufficient intelligence data, which made it difficult to find the medical students who needed to be rescued. The Grenadian Army and its Cuban allies also offered greater resistance than the Americans expected.

CAUSES OF CONFLICT:

The U.S. invasion of Grenada and the toppling of its Marxist government can be seen as part of a greater regional conflict. This conflict involved the U.S. and its Central American and Caribbean allies on one side and Fidel Castro's Cuba, the Sandinista government of Nicaragua and various Marxist guerrilla armies on the other. President Reagan and his administration were concerned that the Marxist government of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop was allowing Cuba to gain undue influence in Grenada, specifically by constructing a military grade airport with Cuban military engineers.

On October 13, 1983, the Grenadian Army, controlled by former Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, seized power in a bloody coup. The severity of the violence, coupled with Coard's hard-line Marxism, caused deep concern among neighboring Caribbean nations, as well as in Washington, D.C. Also, the presence of nearly 1,000 American medical students in Grenada caused added concern.

However, along with concern came opportunity. With President Reagan's worldwide efforts to confront what he viewed as the threat by the Soviet Union and other Communist countries (such as Cuba), the turmoil in the Caribbean provided a timely excuse to eliminate a Marxist government and give Fidel Castro a black eye.

It should also be noted just a few days earlier on **October 23, 1983, American foreign policy and pride suffered a terrible shock when a Muslim suicide bomber destroyed the Marine barracks in Beirut, killing 240 U.S. Marines.** A successful campaign in Grenada would prove helpful in alleviating the pain of that setback.



Despite the difficulties, the Americans were able to take the island by mid-December. An Interim Advisory Council was established and it governed Grenada until December 1984, when Herbert A. Blaize, the head of the New National Party, was made Prime Minister through parliamentary elections.

CONSEQUENCES OF CONFLICT:

The Marxist, pro-Cuban governments of Bishop and Coard were eliminated and a regime friendly to American interests took over.

The Reagan Administration proved willing to use force to combat what it considered hostile governments in the area.

America's European allies expressed disapproval of the unilateral invasion of Grenada.

The invasion sent a message to Cuba and Nicaragua that they could only go so far in exporting revolution in Central America and the Caribbean without provoking an American military response.

As a result of the Cuban defeat in Grenada, Colonel Pedro Tortolo, who was the commander of Cuban military personnel on Grenada when the U.S. forces invaded, was court-martialed and sent to Angola as a private, along with most of his Grenada command.

Operation Enduring Freedom

Oct. 7, 2012 was designated as **Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans Day** by the US Senate. The bill was introduced by Connecticut Senator Richard Blumenthal, Wyoming Senator Mike Enzi, New Hampshire Senator Kelly Ayotte, and Alaska Senator Mark Begich.

The bill began when U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Andrew Koenig of Wyoming contacted Enzi, saying he wanted that day to honor the men and women still serving in Afghanistan.

"A grateful nation thanks the heroes of Operation Enduring Freedom for their bravery, service, and sacrifice and that of their families," said Blumenthal in a press release. "This resolution honors the brave men and women who served in Operation Enduring Freedom for stepping forward when their country needed them and achieving the mighty task that is the namesake of their mission."

"We can't forget that our men and women in uniform are still fighting for our freedom," said Enzi in the statement. "This day recognizes the sacrifices of our Afghanistan veterans and their loved ones. It is a thank you from America for all of their service."

"This resolution affirms our deep gratitude to the thousands of American service members who have served in Afghanistan. They have carried out their missions with courage, perseverance, and skill," said Ayotte, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, in the release. "We must never forget their sacrifices - nor the sacrifices of their loved ones - in answering the call of duty. I join Americans in thanking our military men and women for their brave service and dedication to advancing the cause of freedom."

"October 7, 2001 marked the beginning of the end for insurgent forces in Afghanistan intent on terrorist activities both there and abroad," said Begich in the release. "This resolution honors those dedicated men and women who have fought and sacrificed so that others may realize a life of freedom and democracy."

Oct. 7th will mark 18 years since the Global War on Terrorism began in this region. Over 1.9 million American military members have served in the war, and 2,351 have given their lives.



Beirut Barracks Bombing

October 23, 1983 marks the 37th anniversary of the Beirut bombing. The Marines in this bombing were sent by President Ronald Reagan in 1982 to Lebanon on a peacekeeping mission in the region.

On October 23, 1983, at 6:22 am, a truck carrying 2000 pounds of explosives drives into the Marine compound in Beirut, Lebanon and crashes into the 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regimental Battalion Landing Team barracks.

The Beirut mission started out as an effort to stabilize a fragile peace in a war-torn country. Lebanon had been in turmoil since the Palestine Liberation Organization, having been expelled from Jordan, took refuge there in the 1970s.

In 1975, a panoply of Christian and Muslim militias, some backed by neighboring powers such as Iran, Syria and Israel, turned what had been a Middle East oasis into a no-man's land of urban warfare.

Israel invaded in 1982, hoping to crush the PLO. In exchange for an Israeli withdrawal, the U.N. sent in a peacekeeping force made up of troops from Great Britain, France, Italy and the United States.



U.S. Peacekeeping forces set up camp at Beirut International Airport, a spot difficult to defend because the airport remained open for business and because warring factions controlled strategic hillsides nearby. It was

generally believed the location was set for political and diplomatic reasons, not necessarily tactically defensible.

The situation fell apart quickly. Militia leaders began to view the United States and its allies as favoring the Christian-led forces of the Lebanese government. Tensions increased as evidenced by a car-bomb attack at the U.S. Embassy in April 1983 that killed 63 people emphasizing the point.

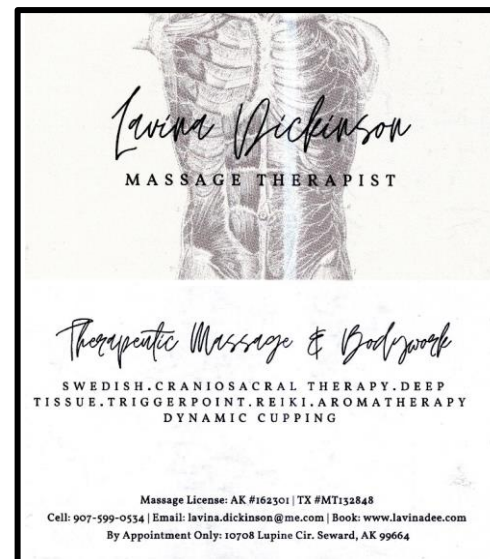
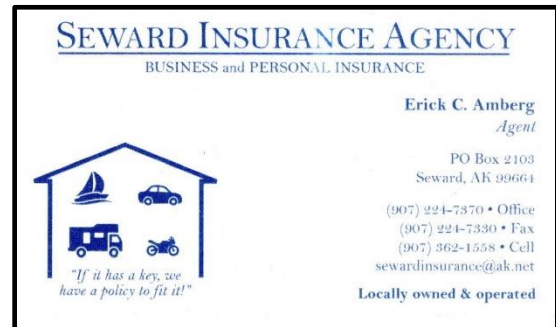
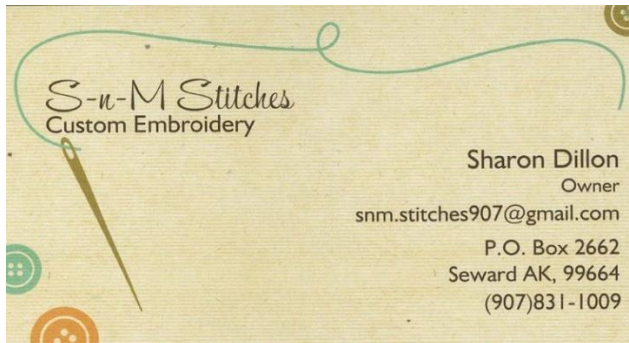
The Marines' departure brought Beirut no peace. The civil war raged for seven more years until a settlement left Syria firmly in control of the country for many years. Yet the peace in this region is never guaranteed with the continual religious and political factions seeking influence and control.



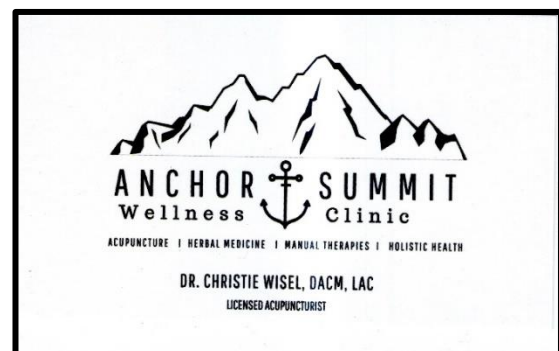
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October 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Steak Night 31	1
						Pool League 7:00 pm
2	3	Mexican Martes 4	5	6	Steak Night 7	8
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO 6:30PM BINGO! Chili Dogs	Voting Day in Seward 	Jewelry Class 6:00 pm 	AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS ALR Meeting 5:30pm B,B,M&C 		Halloween Decorating at the Post 12pm Pool League 7:00 pm
9	10	Mexican Martes 11	12	13	Steak Night 14	15
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO!!! 6:30PM Bingo! Chili Dogs	Post Meeting 5:30 pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm 	SAL Meeting 7pm B,B,M&C		Halloween Decorating at the Post 12pm Pool League 7:00 pm
16	17	Mexican Martes 18	19	20	Steak Night 21	22
Luscious Leftovers 3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM Chili Dogs		Jewelry Class 6:00 pm 	 B,B,M&C		Halloween Decorating at the Post 12pm Pool League 7:00 pm
23	24	Mexican Martes 25	26	27	Steak Night 28	29
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO!!! 6:30PM Chili Dogs		Jewelry Class 6:00 pm 	 B,B,M&C		Commander's Visitation & Dinner 6:30 pm
30	Halloween 31					
Luscious Leftovers 						

Food Every Night at the Post