



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

December 2018
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American Legion Seward Post 5
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



All the best to you during this Christmas Season! We've just completed our community Thanksgiving meal at the post and it was once again a huge event of deliciousness and fellowship! Thanks to the crew who consistently makes it happen! I couldn't be happier that these selfless people take time out of their busy lives to help and serve others in our community. Thank you so much! We even got a spot on Legiontown!!!! 😊



We delivered about 77 meals and fed upward of 80 folks at the post! You folks rose to the task to make it happen. It was a great time getting ready and serving our fellow veterans and local community members! It is a good feeling to be able to help out our friends and neighbors during this "season of giving!"

Okay, onto December, we all have quite a bit planned not only in own lives and regular jobs, but we have quite a few things planned at the post. It is a of course the holiday season and we will be having our Christmas dinner as usual, so plan on a big and delicious meal. The Auxiliary has their annual Christmas Parade with Santa and Mrs. Claus giving out gifts to our local Seward kids at the post on the 15th, and we will be finishing making up our "Operation Apple Pie" packages to our local Seward young men and women who are in the service. With the packages we have a special item to include. The Seward Elementary School made up some of the most delightful cards to send to our Seward and Moose Pass servicemembers who will not be able to be home for the holidays and these adorable cards will give them a warm feeling of home!



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

As we head into December it also means we're coming to the end of the 2018 membership year and the start of the 2019 year. I appreciate all who have joined

or renewed and that shows we're a stable post and that we're growing. With good numbers of members at the local, state and national level it allows us to continue to

have a strong voice regarding veterans' disability compensation and educational benefits. Our collective voices speak "volumes" and have influence on lawmakers and decision makers regarding military members earned compensation for injuries and their subsequent disabilities sustained while in the military. After all, one of the many roles of the American Legion posts is to provide service and comradeship to veterans, their families and the community. And, how better done than helping a vet get healthy and receive the benefits and education which will assist him/her to be productive and viable in our community. The way we can help at this level is to be aware of what is going on in our community, seek an active membership, and promote involvement and volunteerism. We have a good crew in our Post 5 Family and have many who are dedicated volunteers (and we can always use more ☺), so come on down and see what we do - we even manage to have a lot of fun helping others!



One item that I want to mention is all the great work our talented membership has done to help our building upgrades. This effort was long overdue, and a few key people helped and moved forward and made great strides to make our post home something that we can continue to operate in and provide the support to our community. What we have done has been by some amazing volunteers that have "made things happen." Without you we'd never be able to get done what we have achieved. I'd also like to thank all those individuals and organizations in town that continuously help us with donations, so we can fundraise in order to keep doing the necessary maintenance to keep the building upright! You all have been absolutely the best, and a real God-send in our time of need!

Although the crew of the USCGC Mustang is out of state having the ship overhauled with necessary maintenance and upgrades, I'd like to acknowledge all they have done for us this year and in year's past. These young men and women consistently step up to help us

serve others in our community. These wonderful servicemen and women have helped us celebrate and honor our veterans who have passed onto "post everlasting" with dignified military ceremonies that honor and remember their service. This is not only meaningful for us who have been in the military and understand the significance of their efforts in the ceremonies, but also the families who have lost a loved one will have a cherished memory of how their relative was honored even after many years out of the service.



people committed to service - doing good deeds to help others, especially your friends and neighbors. **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!**

As we come to the close of 2018, I want to thank all in our Post 5 Family and our community for a good year of good deeds and good times, and I look forward to another good year of service and camaraderie! So come on down to the post, it is amazing how good it feels to be with like-minded

I want to thank Tom Sears, David Osborn, Kona, and David Joslin for getting the wall around the new cooler done. Great job!!!



We are in the 2019 membership year and I want to thank all of you who have renewed your memberships already helping us to reach 70% of our membership goal. Let's keep the momentum going. If you have not renewed, please consider doing so. Membership is the cornerstone of the American Legion from the Post level all the way up to the National level. We are striving to turn a declining national membership around and it starts with us at the Post. If we could all bring in one new member this year it will truly strengthen our organization and we will be able to support our veterans and their families in amazing ways.

Bingo is going strong on Mondays at 6:30pm. Poker is back on Sundays and Mondays at 6:00pm and Pool League is on Saturday at 7:00pm. Come on in and enjoy some fun and good food.

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.

From the President's Desk....

By Debbie Van Tassel



I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving! And are ready for a busy December at the Post. Thank you to all the volunteers who came to help with the Thanksgiving Day dinner at the Post. At last count 77 meals were delivered to members of the community and another 75+ came to the Post to enjoy dinner. This program is always a huge success and it is because of our wonderful volunteers who donate their time to make it happen. Another shout out to the volunteers who helped with the Post Fund Raiser on November 10th - it also was a huge success. And of course, our volunteers who keep Bingo going every week.



House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Looks like winter is on the way. Hopefully we will get some nice snow for Christmas and winter sports.

I want to thank everyone who helped the Post with all the November activities and ask you to take a look at December's functions and see where you can help. Volunteers are our backbone and we truly have a great crew in the Post 5 Family.

This month we have the Auxiliary Unit 5 Day with Santa on Dec 15th, Community Breakfast on Dec 16th, we have the Christmas meal on Tuesday the 25th and New Year Celebration on Monday the 31st.

December Events



Please check your schedules and see where you can lend a hand with these functions. We will gladly put you to work for the Legion Family.

We will be having **live music on most Saturday nights** through the winter. **Chris Crane and friends** will be playing great music for our members and their guests, so plan to come and enjoy the music and good food each Saturday.

Each month I mention the "countless hours" that our volunteers so generously donate to help make all the programs at the American Legion Post work. However, these really are not countless hours..... do you realize that every hour you contribute to volunteering can be reported and we turn those reports into the Department of Alaska? There are so many things that we do on a daily or weekly basis that count for hours in the American Legion Auxiliary programs; National Security, Americanism, Children and Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, Leadership, Legislative, Membership, Community Service, Chaplin, Jr, Activities, Public Relations, History and Education. Did you know that getting out to Vote in November counts in Americanism as showing responsible citizenship? We as a Unit have historically underreported our hours and I am trying to change that. I am currently preparing the Mid -Year reports so if you have any volunteer time to report please let me know. Also, you can report mileage and any costs incurred. For example, those that helped deliver meals on Thanksgiving can report the hours they spent and the miles they drove to deliver those meals. If you have not been keeping track of hours, mileage etc., please start; I have to submit year end reports in April and can include it in those reports.

Speaking of volunteer opportunities... December 15th we will again host the Firetruck Parade with Santa and Mrs. Claus as part of our Toys for Tots program. The parade begins at 1100 am so we will need help setting up about 0930. Santa will need helpers to serve hot chocolate and snacks to the children and families as they wait to meet Santa. Santa will also need Elves to help hand out gifts so if you have time on the 15th come on down and help Santa make it a special day for many children. On December 8th we will need help wrapping all the presents that Santa is going to hand out- 2PM at the Post.

This year the Auxiliary is doing Holiday food baskets for those families that need assistance during the holiday season. Applications are available at the Post and the deadline for submitting is December 5th. If you know of a family that would benefit, please let them know about the program. Again, the Post will be hosting Christmas Dinner on December 25th. Just like Thanksgiving the Post will need volunteers to help prepare the dinner and deliver it to those who request it. As you enjoy the holiday season with all its activities, please remember our Military service members and Veterans who will not be home for the Holidays. The Post always does an Operation Apple Pie where it sends care packages to local service members who will not be home for the holidays. This year since I have been substituting at the elementary school, I asked if some of the classes would make cards to include in

those packages. I thought it would be a special touch for them to receive a card from the hometown children. The response was overwhelming; the students made over 80 handmade and decorated cards! I am sure this will brighten their day.

Along this same idea, when you sit down to fill out your Holiday Cards to send to family and friends- Why not do at least one more and send to a wounded service member? Here is the address:

**Wounded Warrior Unit
Walter Reed National Medical Center
8901 Wisconsin Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20813**

I am sure that receiving cards and letters to let them know that we appreciate their service and sacrifice will help brighten their day and make it a little easier that they cannot be home for the holidays.

I hope everyone has a Happy Holiday Season and Merry Christmas.



See you at the Post.

Bill of Rights Day 15 December 2018

Excerpt from www.bordc.org. The Bill of Rights does not exist because government officials wanted to protect the rights of the people of the United States. It exists because the people, who knew firsthand what it was like to live as colonists under a king, demanded it and refused to ratify the U.S. Constitution without a promise that it would contain a Declaration of Rights. George Mason, drafted Virginia's Declaration of Rights, which had become part of that state's constitution, and he mounted a campaign to add a similar statement of fundamental rights to the U.S. Constitution.



It is interesting to look at the English Bill of Rights, from 1689, and to compare it to the U.S. Bill of Rights, created 100 years later. The English Bill of Rights was an act of Parliament that guaranteed the right of British subjects to petition the king and to bear arms. It also prohibited excessive bails, fines, and cruel and unusual punishment. The English Bill of Rights became part of the British Constitution and set a precedent upon which Enlightenment philosophers relied. Some of those philosophers lived in the American colonies, and they imported parts of the English Bill of Rights into the U.S. Constitution.

The Bill of Rights was meant to ensure basic rights during times of war and times of peace, regardless of who is in power. In order to ensure its future, we must keep using the First Amendment and speaking out when our rights and the rights of non-citizens are threatened.

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



The Bill of Rights includes these Amendments:

Amendment 1 - Freedom of speech, press and religion

Amendment 2 - The right to bear arms

Amendment 3 - Protection of homeowners from quartering troops, except during war.

Amendment 4 - Rights and protections against unreasonable search and seizure

Amendment 5 - Rights of due process of law, protection against double jeopardy, self-incrimination

Amendment 6 - Rights of a speedy trial by jury of peers and rights of accused

Amendment 7 - Rights to trial by jury in civil cases

Amendment 8 - Protection from cruel and unusual punishment, excessive bail

Amendment 9 - Protection of rights not specified in the Bill of Rights

Amendment 10 - States rights, power of the states

Of the 12 original amendments, which ones were not approved? The original Amendments # 1 and #2 did not pass. These dealt with the number of representatives to Congress, and compensation to representatives. Had they passed, there would be over 6,000 congressmen today!!!

On the *Bill of Rights Day*, we hope you celebrate your American Citizenship, and spend a few minutes reflecting upon the freedoms that you enjoy. These freedoms do not exist in many countries of the world.

Sounding Off from the Sons.... By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Hopefully the wet fall is about over, and winter will come visit. Snow on the ground for insulation would be nice.

We had a busy November, as usual, and December will be just as busy.

The Post fundraiser was a great success with lots of support from Squadron 5 members. Great job everyone. We also thanked our veterans with a good Veterans Day Dinner, we helped with the community breakfast, and Thanksgiving was a great Legion Family event with lots of support from Squadron 5.



Lots of stuff happening this month so there will be many opportunities to volunteer at the Post and continue our dedication to the mission on the Post 5 Family.

This month the Auxiliary Unit 5 Day with Santa will be on Dec 15th, breakfast will be on Dec 16th, the Post will have the Christmas meal on Tuesday the 25th, and there will be the New Year celebration on Monday the 31st.

As you can see, the Post will need lots of help to take care of these functions so let us know when you can donate your time and effort for these activities.

We are now in the 2019 membership year and I thank those of you who have renewed your memberships. I ask those who have not to consider doing so as membership is the backbone 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.



Pearl Harbor Day

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the American Army and Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy. The attack came as a surprise to the American Army and Navy and led to great losses of life and equipment. More than 2,000 American citizens were killed and more than 1,000 were injured. We also lost a large proportion of battle ships and nearly 200 aircraft that were stationed in the Pacific region. More than 60 Japanese servicemen were killed, injured or captured. The Japanese Navy also lost five midget submarines and 29 aircraft.



The Japanese military had hoped that the attack on Pearl Harbor would prevent the United States of America from increasing her influence in the Pacific. However, the events in Pearl Harbor actually led to the escalation of World War II. The day after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan and so entered World War II. President Franklin Roosevelt in a speech to Congress stated that the bombing of Pearl Harbor was "a date which will live in infamy". Shortly afterwards, Germany also declared war on the United States. In the months that followed the attack, the slogan "Remember Pearl Harbor" swept the United States and radio stations repeatedly played a song of the same name.



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

United States military who were present in or around Pearl Harbor during the attack by the Japanese military. The medal can be awarded to civilians, who were killed or injured in the attack.

End of Operation Iraqi Freedom

Excerpt from Congressional Research Service and Conservapedia

On December 15, 2011, U.S. Armed Forces in Baghdad marked the official end of the war in Iraq. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other top U.S. military leaders observed the official end of U.S. Forces Iraq's mission after nearly nine years of conflict that claimed the lives of nearly 4,500 U.S. troops.

From the Director

By Bobby Dunno



It is officially Christmas time! And along with the season I want to send a little reminder that there is a reason for Christmas and we should all take some time to remember before getting caught up the commercial atmosphere that surrounds the holiday these days.

Of course, along with the glory of Christmas is gift giving and I know I have a long list of goodies I would like to see under the tree. New motorcycle tires, heated hand grips, gel seat cushions (for those long rides), a couple sets of brake pads, new LED headlight to replace the dimmer incandescent one on My Girls Honda, riding boots and a clutch cable are a few things on my wish list. I know that more than a few riders have had some particular issue that bugged them or found some nice accessory that they just gotta have and if that is so why not put them under the tree. Regardless we are in that stop riding and start working on the motorcycle time of year.

More good news is we did have a meeting in November and held our First Call for Officers and little is changing in Chapter 5's officer ranks. With that we have gone "dark" so our next meeting will be on the 7th of March 2019 and with a lot of luck the snow will be gone the roads will be dry and we can all Get On Our Bikes and Ride!

American Legion to appear in 130th annual Rose Parade in California



On March 15, The American Legion will celebrate its 100th birthday. To highlight its centennial nationwide during the biggest New Year's Day celebration, The American Legion will have a presence in the 130th annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., Jan. 1.


The American Legion centennial float will travel the 5 1/2-mile parade route filled with hundreds of thousands of spectators and millions of viewers watching live on television. The float will showcase to parade viewers who The American Legion is with its representation and dignitaries from the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and many others.

The Rose Parade will be broadcast live beginning at 8 a.m. PST. The parade is televised on ABC, NBC, Hallmark Channel and others. Check your local broadcast listings for more information or visit www.tournamentofroses.com.

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Thanks to everyone who sent their prayers and good wishes to all of us here in Seward and throughout Alaska for our safety and security during the 30 November 18 earthquake. Thanks too for the posts in the Matsu Valley and Anchorage who opened their doors to those in need. We were all fortunate; sure, things broke but they can be repaired and replaced. We're safe and mostly unharmed, and that is the important thing!

Thanks again to all!



December 2018



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					30	1
Food Every Night at the Post				Food Every Night at the Post		Pool League Holiday Craft Fair at the RR Terminal ***** Baked Chicken ***** Music with Chris Crain
2	3	Mexican Martes 4	5	6	Steak Night 7	Pool League 8
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM Luscious Leftovers	OMAHA POKER 6PM Chili Dogs BINGO 6:30PM 					Music with Chris Crain
9	10	Mexican Martes 11	12	13	Steak Night 14	Pool League 15
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM Luscious Leftovers	BINGO!!! 6:30PM OMAHA POKER 6PM Chili Dogs 	Post Meeting 7pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm 	SAL Meeting 7pm 		Santa at the Post! 11am Music with Chris Crain
16	17	Mexican Martes 18	19	20	Steak Night 21	Pool League 22
 "Texas Hold 'em" 6PM Luscious Leftovers 3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast	OMAHA POKER 6PM Chili Dogs BINGO!!!! 6:30PM					Music with Chris Crain
23	24	25	26	27	Steak Night 28	Pool League 29
No Poker Tonight Luscious Leftovers	NO Bingo Happy Christmas Eve Chili Dogs No Poker Merry Christmas Eve	 Merry Christmas Christmas Dinner 2-5pm	Christmas Leftovers 			Music with Chris Crain
30	New Years Eve! 31					
No Poker Tonight Luscious Leftovers	 NEW YEAR'S EVE HOR DOURVES AND NOSHIES NO Bingo - Happy New Year's Eve					

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!