



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

November 2020
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Greetings to one and all! We've had a good month at the post in spite of Covid. We were able to provide good meals to our membership and those in need.

As the "pandemic" remains in the midst of our community we stand ready to provide what we can to whom we can. And I am pleased to say we have been able to help people in this time of need with meals and where needed financial help.

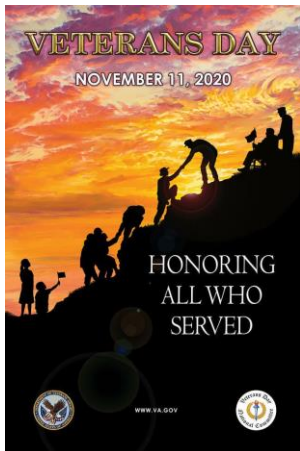


I also want to sincerely thank James Natale and Michelle Oliver who stepped up to keep the post going every night when several of us were hit with the virus and were quarantined for a couple of weeks. I also want to thank our Breakfast Crew who kept the food coming on our monthly community breakfast...albeit a week late. 😊 And of course, I really want to thank those who still came and supported the post on a nightly basis. Your support helps us keep open and active and allows us to continue to help others in the Community.

went extremely well! At the post we had some incredible "noshies" and delightful treats for our membership and we're happy for those who stopped by to celebrate "All Hallows Eve!" We even had a special Halloween cake to satisfy the sweetest tooth of any of our visiting ghouls and ghosts!



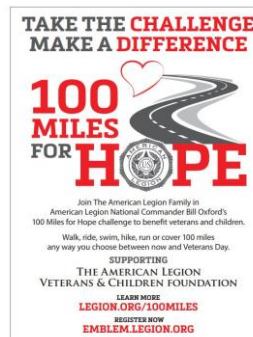
November is **Membership Retention Month**. We have met our target for November (which is 65% by Veterans Day) and have a goal of 75% for December. As we get closer to the end of the year renewals slow down with the holidays looming. If you have renewed - thank you! If you haven't, please renew; continue with your benefits of membership and help Seward Post 5 reach our membership goals for the next few months. And remember to stop by the Post and say hello and grab a bite, we always have free food for our members and those in need!



This month we have two special events that we will be holding - Veterans Day Dinner and our Thanksgiving Day Dinner. As you know we go all out to serve good food on special days and both of these are well worthy of celebrating. On Veterans Day we will also honor several veterans for their service with the presentation of Honor Quilts, all made by the Seward Area Quilters.

Okay, I've been collecting names and addresses for our service members for **Operation Apple Pie** so, get those addresses to me and we'll get a fun package to our Seward kids who are serving in our armed forces - in time for the holidays!

We had a great Halloween and I want to thank everyone who had helped decorate the post for our membership and those brave enough to "brave" the blowy winds and enjoy our devilish temptations at dinner. We saw some fun costumes all over town and I hear the Trunk or Treat event at the Rec Camp



Well, we're at the end of our efforts in the 100 Miles for Hope. As you know it is a virtual 100-mile walk/run/ride challenge that began Aug 3 and is continues through Veterans Day. The National HQ developed it as a way to invigorate donations for the Veterans & Children Foundation, as well as encourage American Legion Family members to be active in this time of social distancing. Dang Covid! 😞

The V&CF serves two primary functions. It provides critical grants for military and veteran parents in unexpected financial crises, and support for service officers in their tireless efforts to obtain care, benefits and opportunities for disabled veterans and families.

We, at Post 5, have completed our 100 miles and continue our walks for health and are happy to contribute where we can. Congrats Seward Post 5 Family!!!

From the President's Desk

By Deb VanTassel

As we welcome in November, I hope all of our Auxiliary members who had health issues in October have been able to recover and get back to some type of normal. This experience brought out the fact that we truly are the American Legion Family and we support each other during times of difficulty. It is important for all members to remember we are all family and if any member needs help or assistance they can reach out.

With all the issues that COVID-19 has caused in the community it has been tough year for many people. As part of our annual community programs the Auxiliary is again taking applications for Holiday Food Baskets. Applications are available at the Legion Post and are due back by 5 PM November 10th. I know this is early deadline but it is necessary so that we can work with the Vendor to order the baskets. These baskets are a full pre-cooked meal that just needs to be heated at home and will serve 6-8 people. This is a totally different program than the full meal that the Post Family prepares/serves and delivers on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our goal is to make certain every family in the community has a good Holiday meal. If you know of a family that is in need of a little extra assistance this Holiday Season please have them fill out an application. Please note on the applications, we need a good contact phone number and the physical address so that we can deliver the baskets.



Another of our annual events is the Santa Parade and Toys for Tots. We have set December 12th as the date for this year. We will need volunteers to help wrap presents prior to the 12th, help decorate the Post and then assist the day of the parade. Lots of Volunteer opportunities! 😊

Bingo will resume on November 2 at 6 PM. If you are looking for something to do come on down.

Remember to renew your membership for 2021. We are doing great so far but still have a ways to go.

A Short History of Veterans Day

World War I - known at the time as "The Great War" - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."



Soldiers of the 353rd Infantry near a church at Stenay, Meuse in France, wait for the end of hostilities. This photo was taken at 10:58 a.m., on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice ending World War I went into effect

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all government buildings on November 11th and inviting people of the United

States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

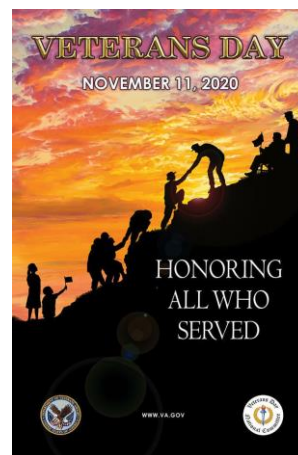
Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."



President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when the VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.



The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Here comes winter and the holiday season. Things have definitely quieted down in town and we are seeing more of our year-round friends as they return from vacation, hunting, etc...

I want to thank everyone who stepped up and filled the void while I was serving my Covid quarantine. James Natale and Michelle Oliver took great care of the Social Area, Melody took care of the logistics at the Post, Al Dykstra and David Osborn assisted with the functions.

Also want to thank Melody's sister for helping out with our community breakfast. You all showed the true spirit of volunteerism that makes the Legion Post 5 Family such a strong and vibrant organization supporting the community of Seward



This month we begin our busy Holiday/Winter season. We have Veterans Day dinner on the 11th, community breakfast on the 15th, and Thanksgiving on the 26th. Lots of opportunity to put on your volunteer hats and have some fun supporting our veterans and the community.

It has definitely been a much different year than most of us are used to. The Legion Post 5 Family has shown its determination and resilience during these trying times. As a member of the largest service organization in Seward, you can be proud of the Legion 5 family and look to a strong future of service to Seward.

The 2021 membership year is in full swing. 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.

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.

Here come the holidays. Chilly weather and snow on the horizon gives us hope for a great winter.

I want to thank Al Dykstra for his continuing support of Post and Club activities. He did a great job for us this year. We welcome back David "Ozzie" Osborn from his summer in Montana, and I thank all Squadron 5 members who continue to support the Legion 5 family and the community of Seward.

This month the Post will host a Veterans Day Dinner on the 11th, a community breakfast on the 15th, and the Thanksgiving meal on the 26th. Plenty of opportunity to come and help continue the tradition of service by Squadron 5.



The new membership year for 2021 is here so think about renewing your membership if you have not already done so. Remember the dues this year are \$35.00. 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.

Renew Today


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.



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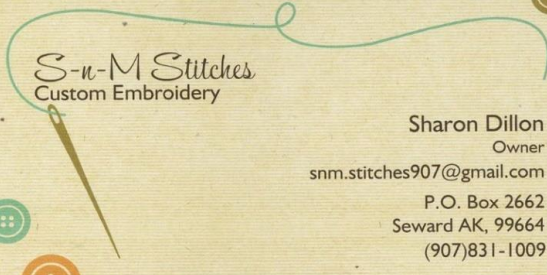
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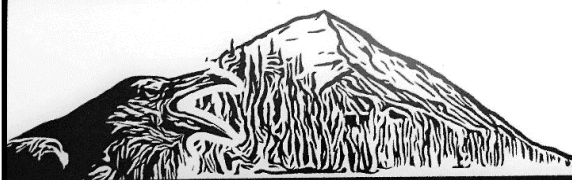


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November

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| 1 <u>Luscious Leftovers</u> Daylight Savings Time  All Saints Day | 2 <u>Dia De Los Muertos</u> All Souls Day  | 3 <u>Mexican Martes</u>  | 4 | 5 <u>B, B, M&C</u>  Pioneers of AK Meeting 6:30pm | 6 <u>Steak Night</u>  | 7 Pool League 7pm  |
| 8 <u>Luscious Leftovers</u> | 9 <u>Chili Dogs Dinner</u> BINGO 6:30PM  | 10 <u>Mexican Martes</u> Post Meeting 5:30pm  Marine Corps Birthday | 11 <u>Auxiliary Meeting 6pm</u>  Veterans Day Dinner | 12 <u>Sons Meeting 7pm</u>  B, B, M&C | 13 <u>Steak Night</u>  | 14 Pool League 7pm  |
| 15 <u>Luscious Leftovers</u> Community Breakfast  | 16 <u>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</u> <u>Chili Dogs Dinner</u>  | 17 <u>Mexican Martes</u>  | 18 | 19 <u>B, B, M&C</u>  | 20 <u>Steak Night</u>  | 21 Pool League 7pm  |
| 22 <u>Luscious Leftovers</u> | 23 <u>Chili Dogs Dinner</u> BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  | 24 <u>Mexican Martes</u>  | 25 | 26 <u>Thanksgiving</u> Thanksgiving Dinner at the Post! 1:30 - 4:30pm  Happy Thanksgiving | 27 <u>Steak Night</u>  | 28 Pool League 7pm  |
| 29 <u>Luscious Leftovers</u> | 30 <u>Chili Dogs Dinner</u> BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  | | |  | | |



Food Every Night at the Post!!!!