



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

November 2019
Volume 16, Issue 11

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Greetings to one and all! We've had another great month that was busy and fun. Thanks to all who helped make it all happen and those who came by to support all the post activities.

We've transitioned to our winter schedule which is calmer and quiet and for the most part with just the locals participating. It is a good time to reconnect now that the frenetic pace of summer has come to an end.

October brought some fun events at the post particularly for those of you who have stopped by and have shared in the fun of the décor and the yummy candy to share with our members and their kids. Thanks to everyone who donated candy for Halloween and decorated the post. I think a few of us need to hit the gym with all the sweets that kept calling our names!

I'd like to acknowledge and send my most heartfelt thanks to Phil Zimmerman and his crew for all the work they did on our roof. People like Phil and his guys are what really makes this town. Their selfless service to the post to get our roof on just in time for the cooler and rainy weather helped us so much and reduces the worries of what will happen to our aging post home. Thanks Phil! You guys rock!!



On a very sad note, we have lost one of our long time Unit 5 Auxiliary members. Linda Tims passed earlier this month and she will be so very missed by family and friends. Linda lived in Seward for many years and was instrumental in the success of numerous

Auxiliary events and held many offices at the unit level. Her influence was particularly noted in the success of the weekly Bingo and all their successful Gaming endeavors. She was quite the versatile gal as she ran the Tuesday night Line Dancing at the post and a wonderful bartender in town for many years. Farewell Linda, you can finally rest and we'll see you again on the "other side."

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're planning on having a **Veterans' Day** celebration with the Seward Senior Center on the 11th around noon and following up to visit some of our veterans at Seward Mountain Haven, so if you're up for honoring some of our senior veterans in town, give us call at the post and we'll get you involved! It is a good thing to do 'cause we wouldn't be this great country without their efforts in our past conflicts. We're also planning our **Post Community Thanksgiving Day Dinner** where we will be cooking up a feast for all!



November is **Membership Retention Month**. We are "in the hunt" for 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 us reach our membership goals for the next few months (in addition, I don't want to get ragged on by our "higher headquarters" 😊 (just kidding - sort of...)).

Veterans Day Program November 8, 2019

Veterans and your families, please join us in showing our appreciation for your dedication and service to our country. This program will be held in the Seward Elementary gym.



Arrive at 10:15 for coffee and donuts. Our elementary students will start their program at 10:45. Enjoy a variety of patriotic songs, as well as recognizing each Veteran that is present.

Prior to our Veterans Day celebration at the Senior Center on the 11th we have a very special celebration of our veterans at Seward Elementary School. These kids go all out with presentations, songs, artwork, and all kinds of enthusiasm and great questions. It is a great way to share your story with some young minds who may just follow in your footsteps and step up and serve later in life. If you can make it, it sure is a worthwhile event and these kids really enjoy putting on the celebration!

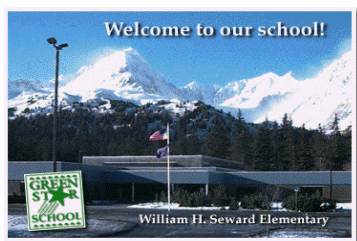
From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY to the American Legion Auxiliary! On November 10th, 2019, the American Legion Auxiliary will celebrate its' 100th birthday. At the October 14th, Seward City Council meeting, Mayor Squires issued a proclamation declaring November 10th as American Legion Auxiliary Centennial Day. Unit 5 will celebrate its' 100th birthday in 2023. The American Legion Auxiliary has been dedicated to helping veterans, active duty military and their families, the community and children for a century and look forward to providing that assistance for another century.



November 8th, the Seward Elementary School will be hosting their annual Veteran's Day program. This program is open to all Veteran's and their families. The elementary students always put on a very special program as a way of saying thank you to our veterans for their service and sacrifice they made to keep us all free. If you are a veteran or know a veteran please plan to attend - it is so important to keep our youth informed and educated about what Veteran's Day means and the reason why we recognize our Veteran's on a special day.



Veteran's Day is officially on November 11, 2019. Veteran's Day honors all members of the Armed Forces who served this country. They served and fought to protect us, to keep our country safe, and to preserve our way of life. Veteran's gave their time and risked their lives for you and me. In some cases, they made the ultimate sacrifice.

This holiday was originally call Armistice Day and was first celebrated in 1921. In 1954, President Eisenhower changed it to Veteran's Day, in honor of those who served and died from all wars.

On November 11th at 11:11, 1921 the U.S., France and England each buried an unknown soldier in honor of those who died in World War I. This began the annual Armistice Day holiday.

The time and day was picked because fighting ceased in WWI in 1918 on November 11th at 11:11. In keeping with the tradition, work stops on this day and time each year for a moment of silence. Please remember to recognize and thank our Veteran's on this day.

November 10th is USMC Day which celebrates the birth of the United States Marine Corps. The Marine Corps was created during the Revolutionary War. The Continental Congress of the newly formed United States of America authorized the creation of the Continental Congress on November 10th, 1775. The name was later changed to the U.S. Marine Corps and is often abbreviated as USMC. The Marine Corps has participated in every war that has involved the United States. If you see a Marine, active or retired, thank them for their contributions to protecting our country and freedom. They deserve our thanks and appreciation.



And of course, coming up on the 28th is Thanksgiving. The Post Family will again be providing a great Thanksgiving meal to those in need in the community. This is a great opportunity to volunteer and provide assistance in preparation of the food and delivery to those out in the community who cannot get out. Please contact Mike at the Post for details on how you can volunteer.



Bingo continues every Monday. Come on down for a fun evening especially now that winter is setting in and the days are getting shorter and colder. Bingo is a great way to spend an evening and maybe win a little bit of money. December 14th will be the annual Santa Parade with fire trucks and Santa and Mrs. Claus. Again, this is a great opportunity to volunteer and have some fun with the community children. More details to follow- watch our Facebook page for details.

Our condolences to the Family of Linda Tims who recently passed away. Linda has been a longtime member of the Unit 5 Auxiliary and provided countless volunteer hours to the Auxiliary. Linda served in many Auxiliary offices and was very active in starting and maintaining the Bingo program that we still have on Monday nights. At this time, I don't have any information on memorial services.



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 11 and inviting the 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.

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice,

Here comes winter and the holiday season. Nice for things to settle down in town a bit and we can see more of our year-round friends.

I want to thank everyone who stepped up and filled the void while I was out of state.

Melody Moline, Dan Oliver, Sharon Dillon, Suzi Towsley, and David Osborn all put in extra time and effort to insure the "Social Area" of

Post 5 continued to serve the membership and their guests with no issues at all. You were all great!! I apologize for the ones I am not aware of but know you are also appreciated very much.



This month we begin our busy Holiday/Winter season. We have Veterans Day dinner on Monday the 11th, the **Marathon Wrestling Club fundraiser on the 16th, community breakfast on the 17th, and Thanksgiving on the 28th**. We are supporting the Seward High School athletic program and the Nordic Ski Club. Lots of opportunity to put on your volunteer hats and have some fun supporting our veterans and the community.



For those of you who have not noticed or seen, we have a new roof in place. Phil Zimmerman and his crew donated their manpower, time,

equipment, and some material to strip and replace the roof on your Post. What a wonderful gift to this Post and its membership. A huge piece of the puzzle to keep our building in good condition for the future. Please give them a big shout out when you see them!!

I want to thank David "Ozzie" Osborn for continuing to move the cemetery forward and prepping it for winter.

Great Job!!!



The 2020 membership year is here. 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. Looks like Seward is back to normal weather wise and otherwise. Nice for things to settle down a bit.

As Squadron 5 continues to support the Legion family at Post 5 I want to thank everyone who gave their time and effort last month. I especially want to thank David "Ozzie" Osborn. He continues to take care of the cemetery and help out at the Post when needed plus he gave extra time while I was gone. We can look forward to the following activities in November. We have Veterans Day Dinner on the 11th, Marathon Wrestling fundraiser on the 16th, community breakfast on the 17th, and of course, Thanksgiving on the 28th. Plenty of opportunity to help the Post and support our veterans.

The new membership year for 2020 is here so think about renewing your membership if you have not already done 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.

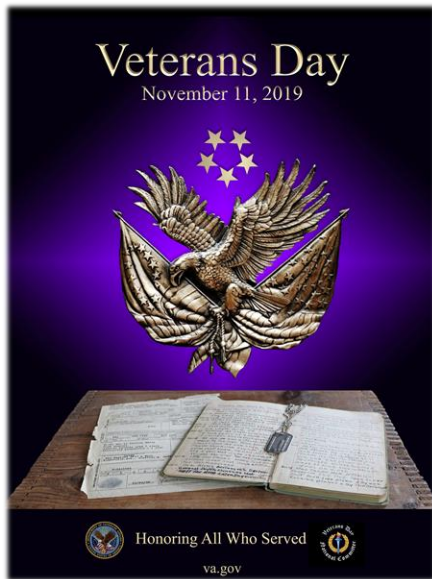
Renew Today

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.

Con't from Pg 3

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.

"One of our Own!"

For those of you who don't know what Legiontown is let me tell you. It is a national platform of the American Legion that allows us to inform and brag about the accomplishments of our organization or some special folks in our organization. We've had that opportunity to be showcased several times for the good we do in the community and for some special events that are uniquely Alaskan such as the work we do for the Armed Forces YMCA during the Combat Fishing Tournament, donations to the "Take a Vet to Lunch" program at the Senior Center and those occasions where we come together to help others when the fish are running, and we find "the Crew" rallies to fillet over 200 salmon to donate to those in need of nourishing food.

Well, we have another unique event by post member Jeff Roy's little girl - 12 years old Shelby. Shelby was supported by Post 5 as she participated in one of Alaska's fastest pastimes for kids, JR drag racing. It has been around since the 90's and it gives kids 8-17 the opportunity to race half-scale versions of the big dragsters you would see at the big national events in a handicapped, bracket-style drag race contested over a 1/8th mile track. Kids can go as fast as their license allows, and no JR can go faster than 85 mph or 7.90 et.




Shelby had a great season this year, advancing to 5 final rounds with 4 wins, one of those being the big Independence Day weekend race, where she swept both points races and finished the season off in 2nd overall here in Alaska. In the 4 years she's been racing, she's advanced to 14 final rounds with 11 wins, a points championship, an IHRA Iron Man Race of Champions win, and got to represent Alaska at the World Finals held in Memphis, Tenn., in 2017. She has also competed at Bristol, TN, Rockingham Dragway in NC, and I64 Motorplex in Owingsville, KY. (where she advanced to the final round) and she and her dad Jeff plan on racing Rockingham again this winter as well as hoping to squeeze in a race at the Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.



Way to Go Shelby!!!!

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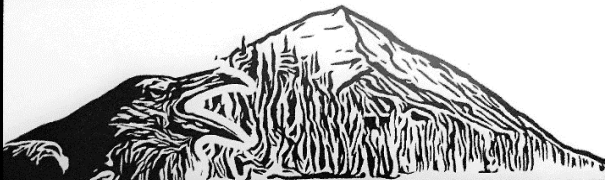


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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Steak Night 1	2
						Pool League
3	4	Mexican Martes 5	6	7	Steak Night	9
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<u>Chili Dogs Dinner</u> BINGO 6:30PM 			<u>ALR Meeting 7pm</u> 	 Elementary School Program for Veterans	Pool League
10	11	Mexican Martes 12	13	14	Steak Night 15	16
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM Senior Center Veterans Day Celebration Veterans Day Dinner at the post	<u>Post Meeting 5:30pm</u> 	<u>Auxiliary Meeting 6pm</u> 	<u>Sons Meeting 7pm</u> 		Marathon Wrestling Fundraiser
17	18	Mexican Martes 19	20	21	Steak Night 22	Chicken Dinner 23
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u> 3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast 	<u>Chili Dogs Dinner</u> BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 					Pool League
24	25	Mexican Martes 26	27	28	Steak Night 29	Chicken Dinner 30
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<u>Chili Dogs Dinner</u> BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 			Thanksgiving Dinner at the Post! 		Pool League



Food Every Night at the Post!!!!