



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

July 2021
Volume 18, Issue 07

American Legion Seward Post 5
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



We're in it now! Summer is upon us, and it has been pretty good so far with a decent mix of rain and sun. We got a late start with all the snow and the temps are a bit cooler this year. It has been a great spring into summer. I think we were getting a lot more visitors due to Covid burnout in other places and Seward was a good place to come - even for our Anchorage friends as they took a lot longer to come out of the regulations and shroud of Covid. Whatever the reason, we're happy to see everyone again and it feels like a "normal" Seward summer.

Thank you!

We've been working hard at the post to beautify the post with flowers for our members and our town, and not to mention all the hard work out at the cemetery for Memorial Day and the near weekly maintenance!



Huge thanks to Bill Casey and Joanne Frey for donating those wonderful hanging baskets and maintaining our watering system! 😊 Speaking of the plants, I'd like to also like send a huge thank you to Carol Souza for the discount on the flowers for our post, we've got them all in the ground and are watching them grow!!

There have been so many who have done amazing work in contributing to our post home. Whether you're working at the cemetery, setting up or cooking for events or nightly meals, or simply patronizing our club for a meal or an "adult beverage," I am extremely grateful and exceptionally humbled by all who have taken time out of your busy lives to contribute in whatever capacity to our

post and ultimately for our veterans and our community. Thank you for all you do!

We had an excellent June with our Flag Day celebration, the Army Birthday and our Father's Day Breakfast! Lots of new faces out and about and in the kitchen! You guys were amazing "getting it done!" 😊❤️❤️😊



Well, here we are, and we were poised for another big event in Seward, the 4th of July! Unfortunately, the Covid thing has still managed to disrupt the festivities somewhat with split events. I think we will have a great weekend anyway, even with the race being shifted to Wednesday the 7th of July.



With the onset of July, we are entering the **2022 membership year**. Be sure to check your mail for your membership renewal: renew online at legion.org, or stop by the post and renew - and please bring a friend, especially if you like what we do for our post members and our community. As you know we try to serve where we can, and we can only do what we do with a strong membership and participation.

🤪 Membership Eligibility 🤪

The American Legion believes that membership in the organization should be extended to all U.S. military personnel who served on active duty during all wars and hostile events that are not seen as a "period of war." And, what that means is if you've served in the military and have an honorable discharge anytime since December 7th 1941 (or are still serving on active duty) you are eligible for membership in the American Legion. Please renew for 2022 and invite others to join; we can only support our fellow veterans from a position of strength and membership is key to that strength!

Thank you all who renewed or joined, your support brought us to our 100% goal from the Department of Alaska!



From the President's Desk....

By Debbie VanTassel

Wow- where did June go? And we are halfway through 2021. It is so good to see so many things getting back to normal.

Again, I want to thank all the volunteers who contribute countless hours to support our veterans, active military, community, youth and families. Without the volunteers we would not be able to do any of the projects and activities that we do.

In July we celebrate the 245th "birthday" of our great nation on July 4th. I know it is still a scaled down celebration again this year but come on down to the Post and help celebrate.

With the 4th of July celebration I wanted to write about one of our nations' most valuable traditions- The Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was originally written in 1892 by an American Baptist minister and social activist, Francis Bellamy. The Pledge of Allegiance is a promise or oath of loyalty to the Republic of the United States of America. It was first published in 1892, in an edition of the Boston based children magazine called "Youth's Companion". On October 12, 1892, it was first used during Columbus Day celebrations. The proclamation made by President Benjamin Harrison and over 12 million children recited the Pledge of Allegiance that day, thereby beginning a school day ritual.



By reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, every American promises to be true to the United States of America. The freedom available will not be taken for granted and each American will remember the countless men, women and children who have given their lives through the centuries, so that they can live peacefully today. I hope everyone has a wonderful 4th of July and take just a few minutes to remember why it is a day of celebration and what we are celebrating- not just the parades and the picnics and the BBQ ribs but the true celebration- the birth of our great nation 245 years ago and all the sacrifices that have been made by our citizens, especially the military and veterans, some who have paid the ultimate sacrifice -so that we have the freedoms we do today.

July officially starts our new membership year. Please remember for 2022 the Auxiliary dues increased to \$40 per Sr member and \$10 for Junior members. We will probably not receive new membership cards until the beginning of September but if you want to renew early you can go on the American Legion Auxiliary website <https://www.legion.org/auxiliary> and renew. You will be able to print your new membership card from the website.

The Auxiliary also has Bingo every Monday night, so come on down and have some fun and support the Auxiliary. Thank you to the volunteers who keep this going every week.

Hope Everyone has a safe 4th of July.

From the Director

By Bobby Dunno



June was a busy month for those of us riding around in the awesome June weather we have been blessed with. You have to wonder if this weather will hold out until the 4th of July. Anyway we had a lot of fun this past month and July is looking good also since most of the concerns with COVID seems to be going the way of history, at least where the motorcycle community is concerned☺.



Bikes for the Wings over Wasilla waiting for Police escort

This past month Chapter 5 got together for an Ice Cream run to Copper Landing and Wildman's and we had a great time with the exception of a run in with a lunatic trucker and merge lanes on our return trip we had a great time. The ALR Alaska was active and together as a whole group first in a long time with the "Wings over Wasilla" event. Post 35 has always presented our Nation's Colors at the Wings over Wasilla event. The ALR has participated the last couple years and as expected all the motorcycles rolling down the runway with flags waving was a big hit this year Chapter 35 asked for as many bikes as possible. So, Larry and I rode up to take part. Most of the ALR Alaska showed up with good showings from Chapters 1, 5, 28 and of course 35, with the Combat Vets showing up to boost the number of bikes rolling down the middle of the runway at 53.



53 Motorcycles awaiting clearance before rolling onto the Runway at Wings over Wasilla

A few weekends later we were back at 35 for the ALR Alaska ROMP and once again there were enough bikes that the group was split into four smaller rider groups to better manage the highway construction and traffic you always expect on a sunny summer weekend in Alaska. We had an overall great ride, with few incidents on the highway and only one mechanical failure when our Side Car lost the rear brake and became a trailer queen for the rest of the trip. After overnighing at Post 30

Con't

which hosted us while we stayed in Fairbanks/North Pole and feed us an awesome breakfast the following morning. At 0900 the following morning an ALRA meeting was held and was informative and short and the ride continued to Tok Alaska. My family and I stayed in Fairbanks and played tourist the rest of the ALR rode on to overnight in Tok and Ride down the Tok Cutoff and the Glenn returning to Post 35 on the 27th. We also returned from Fairbanks that same day meeting up with them ending the event. Overall, another great weekend ride and representing the American Legion and American Legion Riders.



Looking forward immediately we will be having our Chapter ALR meeting 1st of July at the Post at 5:30 and we all should be preparing to ride in Seward's 4th of July Parade which is back on post-covid ☺. Looking on through July on the 23-25 July will be the Salute to Vets sponsored by Southern Peninsula ABATE and run by members of ALR Chapter 20. Saturday is free for Veterans there will be food and fun, bike games and they have scheduled Motorcycle and Rat Rod burnouts and rumor has it that there may be a 18 wheeler there doing burnouts also. All that topped off with live music and a fly over by a vintage C-46 Aircraft. If I am not there for the entire weekend I will be riding over to enjoy the Saturday festivities.

If you get an itch to create some wind across your wind screen give a shout out to your fellow riders, they probably have a hankering to ride also. I know summer is a busy time in Alaska, so if or when you get an opportunity, **Get On Your Bike and Ride!**



House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Another beautiful summer is underway, and it looks to be a very busy one for Post 5.

I would like to thank all the great volunteers that continue to support the Post 5 family in its mission of service to the veterans and the community of Seward. Without those volunteers Post 5 would not be able to provide everything we do for our members and the community. You are truly the backbone of the organization. The Club and Kitchen volunteers have been amazing and continue to provide good food and service for our membership.

This month the Post will celebrate the 4th of July as usual with a slight tweak. There will be BBQ ribs at the Post, but they will be served upstairs in the Social Area and not outside. We are downsizing this activity a bit as the race was moved to the 7th of July. Our community breakfast will be held on the 18th and we will let you know as other activities come around where you can volunteer your time and effort.

The next gun raffle is underway. It is for a GForce semi-auto 12ga shotgun w/bull pup stock. Tickets are \$20.00 with 120 to be sold and the drawing will be held on July 4th at 7:00pm.

The 2021 membership year ended on June 30th and the Post reached its 100% goal. I would like to thank everyone who has renewed their membership and encourage those who have not to still consider doing so. The 2022 Membership year has started on July 1st, and you can renew online at mylegion.org, by mail, or in person at the post. Membership is the backbone of your 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.

Sounding Off from the Sons...

By Mike Calhoon



Beautiful weather, 4th of July on the way. Summer is cruising along.

I want to thank the Squadron members who continue to support the Post 5 Family and all the activities offered to the membership and the community.

Kudos to all volunteers. David Osborn has been doing a great job organizing maintenance of the cemetery. He has gotten volunteers together from the Auxiliary and the Post to keep it looking good. Al Dykstra is back in town and has helped get the grills ready for steak night which is a big help to the Post.

This month the Post will have a raffle for a Semi-Auto 12ga shotgun with the drawing on July 4th. Also, the 4th of July is upon us, even though the race has been moved to the 7th. The Post will have ribs at the Club on the 4th that will be served upstairs in the Social Area. There will be breakfast on the 18th.



100%

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their dues this year. The Squadron did reach its 100% goal for 2021 and the 2022 Membership year starts this

month. Remember the dues are \$35.00 this year. Membership is foundation for all the SAL programs so please consider renewing your dues if you have not done so.

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.

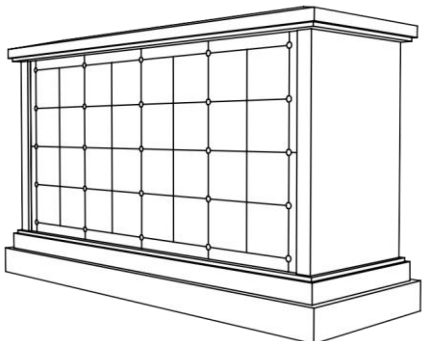


The Post Cemetery Update

Over the years, many of our members have seen, read about, worked at and helped maintain our cemetery. And, we do have a lovely cemetery for our American Legion members and their family members when called to "Post Everlasting." It is a lot of work, but it is a labor of love to keep the grounds presentable for those interred there, and for our ceremonies particularly Memorial Day when we come together to honor our fallen.

Over the last few years several of our Post, Auxiliary and Sons members have worked the undeveloped land for our cemetery expansion as we still have land, that if needed, can be used for burials. The land is now settled after all the work they have done, and we, over the next year or so will get it prepared and seeded as we want to continue to beautify it.

We have found though, that internment in standard graves is for many, not the preferred way to bury and memorialize a family member. Resultantly, I have been researching the Columbarium as an alternative for a few years. Many have asked what that is, and essentially it is a mausoleum for cremated remains (cremains). Columbariums are beautiful structures for the placement of urns in niches that protect the urns and are inscribed with the person's name and information that the family wishes to place on it.



As an organization we want to be responsive to our members' needs and wishes particularly during a time such as the death and burial of a loved one. We are working with a couple of other cemeteries in our immediate area, and we will be researching complementary styles for each individual cemetery's needs, and where we can cost-sharing.



Example of a double-sided Columbarium

There are many styles and sizes of columbarium and as you would expect the cost can widely vary based on need and style appropriate to the cemetery. As many of you know we do not charge a fee for internment in the American Legion Cemetery however, columbarium are expensive as they are engineered for a cemetery's particular needs, expertly and beautifully made of materials such as granite and marble and have niches (to hold the urn) that protect and preserve all the cremains as a fitting memorial for the deceased.

We are fundraising and working to secure grants to obtain sufficient funds to purchase a columbarium that will serve the needs of our veterans and their families in years to come. What we are doing is earmarking a portion of our raffles to also be put toward the purchase of the columbarium. We also have been fortunate to have been notified by the Division of Veterans Affairs that we should be eligible for a grant from the from their Memorial Funding sources to be put toward our columbarium. All which is great news and will bring us closer to securing an additional resting place for our veterans and family who pass onto "Post Everlasting."



My intent was to inform you on one of our larger projects that we feel is important for you to know and if you're in a position to participate in our fundraisers or donate to this effort please do as we are working on this for all of us in our American Legion Family.

Thanks,

Sully

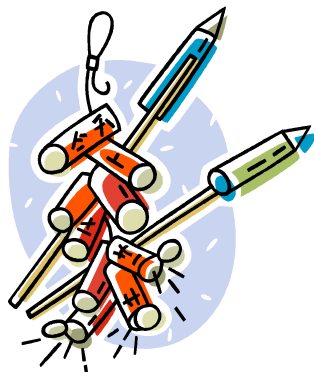


Fourth of July Facts

When the holiday was declared a holiday and although Independence Day is a legal holiday, it was not declared so until 1941. This was the date that signified the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

- The introduction of fireworks.

The 4th of July is synonymous with firework displays and are a staple in the celebration. How did they become so popular? Have they always been used? History shows that they were originally made in China and as early as the 11th century. This was during the time when the Chinese people used pyrotechnic mixtures for war rockets and explosives. We use them for a fine celebration of the end the war of independence and end of Great Britain's control on the "colonies."



- **Uncle Sam.** The 4th of July facts surrounding the term "Uncle Sam" was finally clarified and popularized during the War of 1812. This is when the term originally appeared on supply containers that held war materials. The "Uncle Sam" symbol became synonymous with servitude and devotion, as in Uncle Sam wants YOU. Although there was heavy recruitment taking place, Congress did not adopt Uncle Sam as a national symbol until 1961.

- **Two Facts.** Two very important but little known 4th of July facts show that 1) full support of the Declaration of Independence was not supported by all members of the Continental Congress and 2) a representative of Congress rode horseback 80 miles to reach Philadelphia and break a tie in support of independence.

- **The Liberty Bell.** Like the historical flag, the Liberty Bell was a very symbolic monument for Americans. However, the Liberty Bell has some 4th of July facts that many do not know about. Originally, there were two versions of the Liberty Bell. At the time of their manufacturing, one was found



to be defective and had to be melted and recast. The second bell was subsequently also found to be defective. It too had to be melted down and recast, therefore requiring a third version. Without any defective places, the third version of the Liberty Bell rang every Fourth of July from 1778 to 1835. According to history and tradition, as it rang, it cracked as it was being tolled for the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, the longest serving Chief Justice in the Supreme Court.

- **Our national poem.** A Wellesley College professor, Katharine Lee Bates, was the author of the patriotic poem "America the Beautiful" which was published on July 4, 1895.

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

- **Firsts.** Our country's first father, George Washington, held his first public office at the age of 17 and continued in public service until his death in 1799.



Facts such as these help to make our celebrating more meaningful and help to deepen our commitment to our country and in our service. As we celebrate Independence Day, we can find more reasons to be grateful for the country that we live in.

Declaration of Independence 1776

US Dept of State, Office of the Historian

By issuing the Declaration of Independence, adopted by the Continental Congress on **July 4, 1776**, the **13 American colonies severed their political connections to Great Britain**. The Declaration summarized the colonists' motivations for seeking their independence. By declaring themselves an independent nation, the American colonists were able to conclude an official alliance with the government of France and obtain French assistance in the war against Great Britain.



The Declaration of Independence

Throughout the 1760s and early 1770s, the North American colonists found themselves increasingly at odds with British imperial policies regarding taxation and frontier policy. When repeated protests failed to influence British policies, and instead resulted in the closing of the port of Boston and the declaration of martial law in Massachusetts, the colonial governments sent delegates to a Continental Congress to coordinate a colonial boycott of British goods. When fighting broke out between American colonists and British forces in Massachusetts, Continental Congress worked with local groups, originally intended to enforce the boycott, to coordinate resistance against the British. British officials throughout the colonies increasingly found their authority challenged by informal local governments, although loyalist sentiment remained strong in some areas.

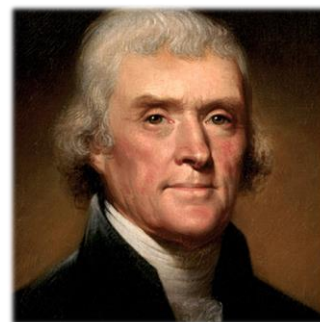
Despite these changes, colonial leaders hoped to reconcile with the British Government, and all but the most radical members of Congress were unwilling to declare independence. However, in late 1775, Benjamin Franklin, then a member of the Secret Committee of Correspondence, hinted to French agents and other European sympathizers that the colonies were increasingly leaning towards seeking independence. While perhaps true, Franklin also hoped to convince the French to supply the colonists with aid. Independence would be necessary, however, before French officials would consider the possibility of an alliance.

Throughout the winter of 1775-1776, the members of Continental Congress increasingly viewed reconciliation with Britain as unlikely, and independence the only course of action available to them. When on December 22, 1775, the British Parliament prohibited trade with the colonies, Congress responded in April of 1776 by opening colonial ports—this was a major step towards severing ties with Britain. The colonists

were aided by the January publication of Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense*, which advocated the colonies' independence and was widely distributed throughout the colonies. By February of 1776, colonial leaders were discussing the possibility of forming foreign alliances and began to draft the Model Treaty that would serve as a basis for the 1778 alliance with France. Leaders for the cause of independence wanted to make certain that they had sufficient congressional support before they would bring the issue to the vote. On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion in Congress to declare independence. Other members of Congress were amenable but thought some colonies not quite ready. However, Congress did form a committee to draft a declaration of independence and assigned this duty to Thomas Jefferson.



Thomas Paine



Thomas Jefferson

Benjamin Franklin and John Adams reviewed Jefferson's draft. They preserved its original form but struck passages likely to meet with controversy or skepticism, most notably passages blaming King George III for the transatlantic slave trade and those blaming the British people rather than their government. The committee presented the final draft before Congress on June 28, and Congress adopted the final text of the Declaration of Independence on July 4.

The British Government did its best to dismiss the Declaration as a trivial document issued by disgruntled colonists. British officials commissioned propagandists to highlight the declaration's flaws and rebut the colonists' complaints. The Declaration divided British domestic opposition, as some American sympathizers thought the Declaration had gone too far, although in British-ruled Ireland it had many supporters. The Declaration's most important diplomatic effect was to allow for recognition of the United States by friendly foreign governments. The Sultan of Morocco mentioned American ships in a consular document in 1777, but Congress had to wait until the 1778 Treaty of Alliance with France for a formal recognition of U.S. independence. The Netherlands acknowledged U.S. independence in 1782. Although Spain joined the war against Great Britain in 1779, it did not recognize U.S. independence until the 1783 Treaty of Paris. Under the terms of the treaty, which ended the War of the American Revolution, Great Britain officially acknowledged the United States as a sovereign and independent nation.

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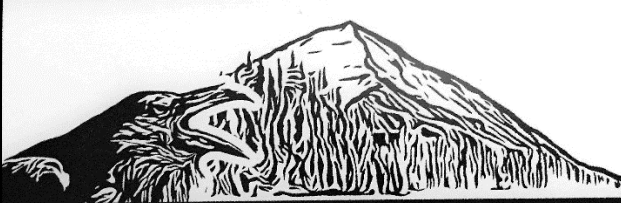
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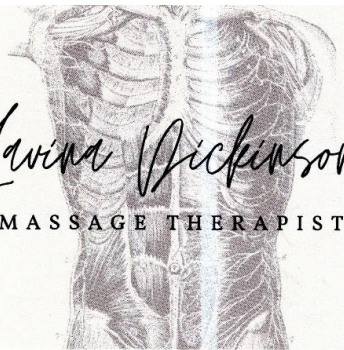
ADVENTURE SIXTY NORTH

Outdoor Adventure Center
Seward, Alaska

BRASS BONES



Sam Clemons-Owner/Jewelry Artist



Lavina Dickinson
MASSAGE THERAPIST



Karla J. Newitz
Artist/Illustrator

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July 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				B, B, M&C 1	Steak Night 2	3
				ALR Meeting 5:30pm 		
Independence Day 4	5	Mexican Martes 6	7	B, B, M&C 8	Steak Night 9	10
 Happy 4th of July BBQ Ribs	<u>Chili Dogs</u>  BINGO 6:30PM 		Guest Chef Night Salisbury Steak 	SAL Meeting 7:00pm 		
11	12	Mexican Martes 13	14	B, B, M&C 15	Steak Night 16	17
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  <u>Chili Dogs</u> 	Post Meeting 5:30pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm 			
18	19	Mexican Martes 20	21	B, B, M&C 22	Steak Night 23	24
3 rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast  <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<u>Chili Dogs</u>  BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 					
25	Korean War Ends 26	Mexican Martes 27	28	B, B, M&C 29	Steak Night 30	31
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  <u>Chili Dogs</u> 			SOULMATES 		



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!
UNITED STATES



Food Every Night at the Post!!!