



Veterans Strengthening America

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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American Legion Seward Post 5

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Wow! What a Summer it has been, we've had a mixed bag and a bit cooler but it definitely makes you appreciate the sunny and warmer days. Let's hope for a good day for the runners on the Mount Marathon Race on the 4th!

We've been super busy, beyond what we have in the past with lots of military visitors and of course our standard busy times in both May and June. Even with people in town and great weather, our amazing volunteers have continued to step up. Thank You!!! It sure is good to see our seasonal friends and family year after year and all their help. They definitely make it happen!

I also want to thank all our year-round folks who year after year contribute to make Seward Post 5 a welcoming place for our veterans, our membership and the community.

Many don't know that nearly all positions are volunteers who give back nearly every day. That means apart from the Club Manager, all services - cooking, bartending and kitchen, cleaning etc. are accomplished by volunteers; so, when you see them running stairs with food or hauling dishes to be washed let them know you appreciate what they do, and maybe throw a bit more in the tip jar! 😊 We couldn't provide what we do for everyone without them!

As we work to make our post home welcoming with good food and camaraderie, we also want to make it inviting on the outside. Year after year Bill and Joanne Casey donate the wonderful hanging baskets outside the post and Scott and Jackie Wilde do the tedious work of weed whacking around the post to keep those fast growing and pesky weeds down. You guys are awesome!! The post looks great, thanks to you and the sun we've had lately!

THANK YOU

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 for all who have taken time out of their 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 the busy Father's Day Breakfast, ❤️ 😊



With the onset of July, we are entering the **2026 membership year**. We hit our 100% goal for 2025, Yay!!! 😊 😊 😊 😊 Thank You for renewing!!! 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 5 Family 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." 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 2026 and invite others to join; we can only support our fellow veterans from a position of strength and membership is key to that strength!



Adjutant & Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant,

Our chilly spring has turned into a decent start to summer. Let's hope for the best this summer and everyone enjoy the season and be safe.

Thanks to everyone who dedicated time and effort towards our June activities. We could not accomplish what we do without the great volunteers. Whether you volunteer often or just occasionally, we truly appreciate it.

A big heartfelt thank you goes out to the **Air National Guard unit from Illinois** that was working at the Military Resort. They came and supported the Post, but most importantly, they volunteered for the firing detail for Pat Saulsbury's memorial service. They did a fantastic job to help honor this veteran.

This month we will be having the 4th of July celebration and Rib Feed, ALR breakfast on July 12th and community breakfast on July 20th. As other activities come up, we will let you know.

The current gun raffle drawing will be held on July 6th at 7:00pm and we will let you know when the next raffle kicks off.

I would like to ask everyone to be considerate of others when you come to enjoy the food here. We provide these meals as a benefit to our membership and would like to see as many members have had the opportunity to eat as possible. Please limit yourselves to one helping until it is apparent that most folks, who want to, have eaten. Thank you for your consideration.



Thanks to everyone who renewed their memberships or joined the Post this year that helped us exceed our goal for 2025. Your membership supports all the programs and activities of Post 5 and those of the Department of Alaska and the National Organization. You can renew for the 2026 membership year starting July 1st. You can go to mylegion.org to renew online, you can mail your renewal when you receive it in the mail, or you can stop by the Post, and we will get to see your smiling face. The dues have remained \$60.00 for Post members.

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



Summer has shown up and the 4th of July is upon us. Enjoy the season and be safe.

I want to thank everyone for your continued support of our Legion Family here at Post 5. The support you provide is very important in helping the Legion family carry out its mission for the veterans and community.

Our great SAL volunteers continue to support the goals and mission of SAL Squadron 5. Deklan Finley has helped with the breakfasts and steak night; Scott Wilde has mowed around the Post while his wife Jackie wacked weeds and Memphis Stanley helped with our breakfasts.

This month the Post will host the 4th of July celebration and BBQ Rib Feed, the ALR breakfast on July 12th, and the community breakfast on July 20th. If you want to help with any of these activities, please let us know and we will gladly put you to work.

Thanks to all of you, we exceeded our goal for the 2025 membership year. The new membership year, 2026, begins this month. Dues are \$35.00. You can renew online at mySAL.org, come to the Post to renew or mail in your \$35.00 to PO Box 3091. Remember, your membership helps us support the mission and goals of the Sons of American Legion and the Post 5 family.

Our monthly meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, and all Squadron 5 members are invited to attend.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 907-224-5440. Thanks again for all your support of the Post 5 family and I look forward to seeing you all around the Post when possible.

From the President's Desk...

By Deb VanTassel



Happy Independence Day! And Happy July! It is so nice to have some nice summer weather this year. So, I hope everyone is getting out and enjoying some of this great weather.



To help celebrate Independence Day and the Mt. Marathon race, the Post will be serving their traditional BBQ rib dinner with all the fixings. I might be a little biased, but I think they are the best ribs in town.

Remember we still have the **Patriot Pet Fund Raiser** going. At this point we have only had a few submissions- so please submit photos of your pets- any photos so that we can do a calendar for 2026.

July officially starts our new membership year. Now is a good time to renew your membership. You can go online at <https://www.legion.org/auxiliary> and renew. You will be able to print your new membership card from the website.



BINGO! the fun begins at 6 PM everyone Monday night at the Post. Doors open at 6 PM and games begin at 6:30 PM. Thank you to all the volunteers that make Bingo happen every week.

As we celebrate the birth of our great nation- 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's 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 we 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's but the true celebration- the birth of our great nation 248 years ago. And remember 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.



Seward Auxiliary Unit 5 Fun Fund Raiser

Patriot Pet Photo Calendar



Rules:

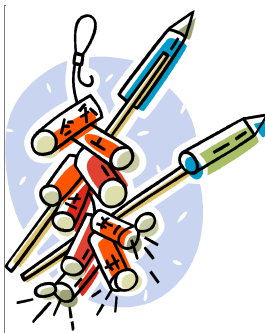
1. Open to Post 5 Family Members only
2. Limit 2 photos per family \$5.00 submission fee per photo- at least 1 photo will be included on calendar (maybe both depending on number of submissions) Be creative- have fun with photos
3. Dogs, cats, birds, hamsters- let's see what you have- but it must show something patriotic
4. Deadline for submission August 31, 2025
5. Must be original photo- NO photoshop or AI generated photos please.
6. Submit photos to Debbie at alaska99755@yahoo.com or provide on a SD card or thumb drive (media will be returned)
7. 2026 Calendars will be created and then can be purchased. Price estimated around \$30.00

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.

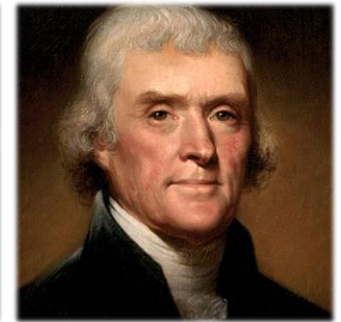
Despite these changes, colonial leaders hoped to reconcile with the British Government, and all but the most radical members of Congress were unwilling to declare independence. However, in late 1775, Benjamin Franklin, then a member of the Secret Committee of Correspondence, hinted to French agents and 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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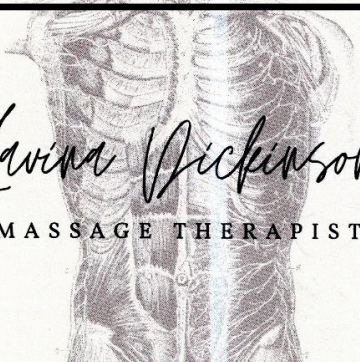
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Lavina Dickinson
MASSAGE THERAPIST

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July 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Mexican Martes 1	2	3	Independence Day 4	5
	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs			ALR Meeting 5:30pm 	 Happy 4th of July BBQ Ribs Kid's Sawdust Pile Coin Hunt (No Steak Night)	
6	7	Mexican Martes 8	9	B,B, M&C 10	Steak Night 11	12
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs	Post Meeting 5:30pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6:00 pm 	SAL Meeting 7:00pm 		ALR Breakfast 9-11am 
13	14	Mexican Martes 15	16	B,B, M&C 17	Steak Night 18	19
Luscious Leftovers MAKE USE OF LEFTOVER FOOD 	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs					
20	21	Mexican Martes 22	23	B,B, M&C 24	Steak Night 25	26
3 rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast  Luscious Leftovers	Chili Dogs  BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 					
27	28	Mexican Martes 29	30	31		
Luscious Leftovers 	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs					



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!

FOOD EVERY NIGHT AT THE POST!!!

INDEPENDENCE

Vickie L. Detert (6/29/25)

"I want to do it by myself. I want to stand alone.

I want my independence in this brand new land that I call home."

***Now, you are probably thinking, I'm talking as myself,
but in this case, it's how I think that others felt back when -***

back when this country came to be united in a dream,

a dream of a new nation based on life with liberty,

a dream that they would fight for, even if it cost their lives.

And now, we stand and celebrate the dream that did survive.

Independence, freedom and yet we're not alone.

Remember those who dared to dream and shared the vision we call home.

