



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

July 2013
Volume 10, Issue 07

American Legion Seward Post 5
E-mail: americanlegionpost5@gci.net
Phone: (907) 224-5440



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



We're in it now! Summer is here and we've been enjoying some great weather. We've been working hard at the post to beautify it for our members and our town with flowers and a huge improvement in the entryway. Many thanks to Brent Johnson who has not only directed the efforts in designing our floral array, but has been the driving force in keeping the décor going in spite of the heat and unrelenting sun we had for a few weeks. It made for some sweaty days getting it set up, but with some TLC and some quick growing plants, we're well on our way to a beautiful building. Speaking of the plants, I'd like to send a huge thank you to Stony Creek Gardens for the flowers. All the annuals we have out there, and there are quite a lot of them, were donated by Stony Creek Gardens - Thanks Darcy for thinking of us and the members of our American Legion Family.



I'd also like to thank John Christensen and Dieter Smith who did the fabulous tile work in our entryway to the post. It looks really great and makes a great impression when walking into the post! Note too, our American Legion colors in the tiles also happen to be the same colors of our state flag! What a bonus!



You all have done wonderfully in contributing to our post home. Whether you're working on flowers, tiles, cooking, participating and setting up one of our many events, 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 home. All you do helps us help our veterans, their families and our community. Thank you for all you do!

Well here we are poised for another big event in Seward - the 4th of July! As you know we will be participating in the town's parade with members from the Post, Sons, Auxiliary, Riders, and the crew of the Mustang helping us out - and looking impressive in our town's celebration of our Nation's independence. We, as a post, are fortunate to have the Mustang crew and their families as a part of our American Legion Family. It is good for all and allows us to show the "new" veterans what we are all about and how we continue to serve even though we're not in our service uniforms anymore.



Now that we're in the prep mode for the special day, we are of course under the careful direction of Connie in preparation of our famous Seward Post 5 BBQ ribs, baked beans and potato salad. This preparation is no small undertaking, at last I heard Mike and Connie ordered around 400 or so pounds of yummy ribs and are making all the "fixins" as well! It should be a good weekend so stop by.

With the onset of July we are entering a new membership year. Be sure to check your mail for your membership renewal or stop by the post and renew and bring a friend. As you know we do a lot in town and we can only do what we do to help veterans and the community with a strong membership and participation. We don't generally toot our own horn but we do a lot for this community, and you can read about it in the **Seward Journal** in last week's article on the post. Thanks Bob and Vanta for the good press! Your work and news keep us informed on the happenings in Seward and helps us in service to others.

If you ever need to know the criteria for membership here it is for reference. A veteran simply needed to have served honorably during one of these time periods:

- April 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918 (World War I)
- Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946 (World War II)
- June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955 (Korean War)
- Feb. 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War)
- Aug. 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon / Grenada)
- Dec. 20, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1990 (Panama)
- Aug. 2, 1990 to today (Gulf War / War On Terrorism)

Again, I want to thank all who have helped us in our events and our day to day operations. Your dedication has allowed us to continue to serve our community and our veterans.

Directors Notes...

By Bobby Dunno



I hope that everyone is enjoying the very excellent weather that we have been blessed with of late. I know it makes real good riding weather and I know many of us are taking great advantage of it. It is not many times I can say that I have been sunburned while riding in Alaska but it happened to me this year! How often does Alaska make the National News for being too warm ☺. Riding this time of year with this weather is a great experience with all the sights and smells that we breeze through as the wind cuts across our handlebars.



1st Annual American Legion Riders R.O.M.P. (Riders On Motorcycles Parade) was held on the 14-16 of June and hosted by Post 30 in North Pole. If you have not heard one of our Riders discuss it up at the Post and are wondering what a R.O.M.P. is, it came about replacing the Annual ALR Convention held every June. Since the American Legion Riders Alaska now participates with the rest of the Legion Family at the Department Convention held in April, but we still wanted to get together during the riding season. Thus the R.O.M.P. has come to take its place on our calendar. Don and Marilyn Sutherland and I attended representing Post 5 and we took advantage of the ride that far North to "do the loop" riding to Fairbanks up the Parks Highway but returning home via the Richardson Highway. Like our Memorial Day the weather was incredible. Let me say Lisa, Vicki, Darren, Russ (Note, I put the Ladies first cause you know who did most the organizing) along with everyone else in the Legion Family at Post 30 did an excellent job playing host, organizing and making everyone feel at home. I felt so comfortable there were a few people actually came up to me at the Post with questions about the area I had no hope in answering. "Vicki's Mom" and gang served an awesome Steak and Crab cookout and it was meal that will set a standard for all the future Post's that hope to host the Legion Riders R.O.M.P

The rides and bike games were fun and the ice cream was way plentiful and also too tasty. The Bug Run had all the riders sticking rifle targets to the vertical surfaces on their motorcycles and comparing bug strikes on them at every stop of break. Seeing a group of motorcyclist getting excited at seeing their bike get pasted with bug guts in itself was fun. The ride north and meal at the lodge in Chatanika was the true highlight of the weekend and the folks at the lodge were Awesome! But the greatest thing that came from the R.O.M.P. and what should be the main focus of all Alaska's American Legion Riders is the funds raised for the Legacy Run.



I rode most of the way home with the Riders from Post 35 and it was a great experience and one I will remember for a long time. I think it would not be presumptuous of me to say the 1st Annual Alaskan Legion Riders R.O.M.P. was a success.



For those who like to plan way ahead you are on notice that **Post 5 will be hosting the R.O.M.P. in June 2014**, it will be an extra event that we need to plan for next summer. I am sure this planning and organizing will give more than a few of us something to do over the winter. We all know just how fast summer will fade into fall so please take advantage of this time and *Get On Your Bike And Ride!*



House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



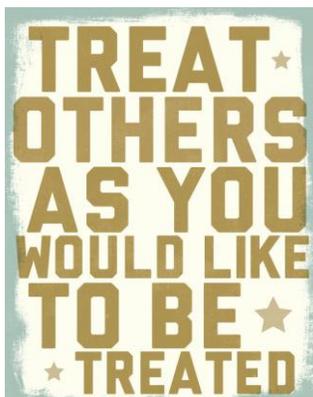
Hello from the Second Vice/Club

What a summer we have had so far. All the great weather and fun activities have made this the beginning of a summer to remember.



The 4th of July is here!!! We need lots of volunteers over the next few days to pull this off so please contact your organization representatives to find out how you can help.

Along with the busy schedules everyone has in the summer comes a tendency for each of us to get a bit worn, tired, and edgy. Maybe it is only me but I think we should all take a step back and consider how we treat each other. I recognize that we all have our bad days and we each get along with some folks better than others. If we try to follow the golden rule as best we can then we will do a better job of supporting our members and the mission we all work for. If we want to be treated pleasantly and kindly then we need to treat others that same way and we should all respect one another's beliefs, personal space, and the common bond of service that makes us all eligible for membership in each of the organizations of this Legion family.



We do a really good job of making all the out of town visitors feel welcome at the Post but we do not always do the same for our own members and I am definitely including myself in that discussion. We should recognize we are all equals in this journey regardless of the amount of time, money, or effort we spend at the Post or in the accomplishment of our service to others. Our common bond is what makes us unique and is what should help us survive as an organization when so many others are dropping by the wayside.



I will take this time to thank each and every member for their support of and dedication to this Post 5 American

Legion Family. I consider it a privilege to serve all of you and I will work to show that on a daily basis.

I hope you all have a great 4th of July and I look forward to seeing you at the Post.

Sounding Off from the Sons....

By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

I would like to than all the volunteers from the SAL for their assistance during the month of June with Flag Day, Father's Day, and the regular activities that take place weekly at the Post. Your giving attitude and willingness to spend time at the Post continually helps make accomplishing our mission much easier.

The S.A.L. will be sponsoring a deck renovation plan/program this summer and we will keep you informed on the schedule for that and any help that will be needed. It will enhance the Post and further help insure greater safety for all of us.



Of course the 4th of July is on us and we need lots of help with all the activities so contact the post Commander, myself, or the Auxiliary to find out where you can lend a hand.

If you have not renewed your **membership** or you know someone who is eligible to join please contact me with any questions.

Thank you all for your support of Squadron 5 and our entire American Legion Family!



Auxiliary Vice Notes....

By Connie Kullander, 2nd Vice

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!!!!

Well another month has passed us by. We were not as busy as the other months but a very productive one.



We had a beautiful ceremony on Flag Day, at the north end of the building. The bar was on hold for 30 minutes while the ceremony took place. We had a few folks from out of state attend and they said it was nice to see a small town like ours take such pride in a not so publicized event.

On another note, we would like to say "happy trails" and "safe travels" to Vern and Shirley Heckel, as they are headed for colder country and a state with four seasons.

We will be having our Fourth of July ribs here at the post, so if you have a spare moment we could sure use the help. The post will be doing ribs, potato salad, and baked beans. The Auxiliary will be doing soda floats. (ice-cream with your favorite pop). We will also be in the parade and need help with a few details there. For more information you can get ahold of Mike or Clare. We would love to see a huge turn out from all the organizations. It's about America.

For God and Country!!!

Have a fun and safe Fourth of July!!!

Korean War End 27 July 1953

Excerpt from History.com



The Korean War began on June 25, 1950, when communist North Korea invaded South Korea. Almost immediately, the United States secured a resolution from the United Nations calling for the military defense of South Korea against the North Korean aggression. In a matter of days, U.S. land, air, and sea forces had joined the battle. The U.S. intervention turned the tide of the war, and soon the U.S. and South Korean forces were pushing into North Korea and toward that nation's border with China. In November and December 1951, hundreds of thousands of troops from the People's Republic of China began heavy

assaults against the American and South Korea forces. The war eventually bogged down into a battle of attrition. In the U.S. presidential election of 1952, Republican candidate **Dwight D. Eisenhower** strongly criticized President Harry S. Truman's handling of the war. After his victory, Eisenhower adhered to his promise to "go to Korea." His trip convinced him that something new was needed to break the diplomatic logjam at the peace talks that had begun in July 1951. Eisenhower began to publicly hint that the United States might make use of its nuclear arsenal to break the military stalemate in Korea. He allowed the Nationalist Chinese government on Taiwan to begin harassing air raids on mainland China. The president also put pressure on his South Korean ally to drop some of its demands in order to speed the peace process.

Whether or not Eisenhower's threats of nuclear attacks helped, by July 1953 all sides involved in the conflict were ready to sign an agreement ending the bloodshed. **The armistice, signed on July 27, established a committee of representatives from neutral countries to decide the fate of the thousands of prisoners of war on both sides.** It was eventually decided that the POWs could choose their own fate--stay where they were or return to their homelands. A new border between North and South Korea was drawn, which gave South Korea some additional territory and demilitarized the zone between the two nations. The war cost the lives of millions of Koreans and Chinese, as well as over 50,000 Americans. It had been a frustrating war for Americans, who were used to forcing the unconditional surrender of their enemies. Many also could not understand why the United States had not expanded the war into China or used its nuclear arsenal. As government officials were well aware, however, such actions would likely have prompted World War III.

Before the armistice, talks had gone on for nearly 2 years. Eisenhower had promised that if he was elected in the election of 1952, he would go to Korea and end the war. There was no simple way to end the conflict. Talks had collapsed in October 1952. In 1953, the US threatened to bomb China, but eventually a ceasefire was declared between UN forces and Korean/Chinese forces.



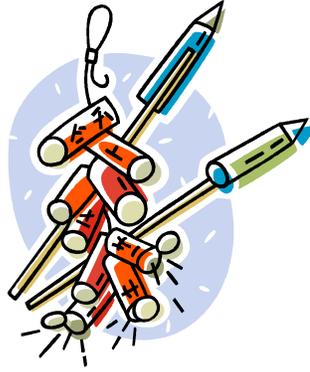
The "De-Militarized Zone" which designates the border between North and South Korea has remained one of the most heavily-armed stretches of land on Earth. The stability of the region is threatened by the ongoing development of nuclear weapons by North Korea.

Fourth of July Facts

When the holiday was declared a holiday. 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.



- **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 Factoids.** 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.

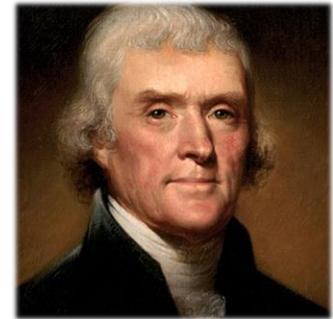
Despite these changes, colonial leaders hoped to reconcile with the British Government, and all but the most radical members of Congress were unwilling to declare independence. However, in late 1775, Benjamin Franklin, then a member of the Secret Committee of Correspondence, hinted to French agents and 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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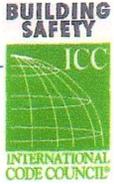
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July 2013



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	BINGO!!! 6:30PM OMAHA POKER 7PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i>		Burgers and Dogs 	Happy 4th of July BBQ Ribs! 	KARAOKE 7PM 	Fried Chicken
7	8	Mexican Martes 9	10	11	Steak Night 12	13
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i>	OMAHA POKER 7PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i> BINGO 6:30PM ALR Meeting 7pm 	Post Meeting 7pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 7pm Lasagna	SAL Meeting 7pm Meatloaf	KARAOKE 7PM 	Baked Chicken
14	15	Mexican Martes 16	17	18	Steak Night 19	20
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM OMAHA POKER 7PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i>		Chef Surprise 	Chicken Fried Steak 	KARAOKE 7PM 	Fried Chicken
21	22	Mexican Martes 23	24	25	Steak Night 26	27
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i>	OMAHA POKER 7PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i> BINGO!!! 6:30PM 	 Department Service Officer Visit	Pork Loin 	Fish Dinner 	KARAOKE 7PM 	Baked Chicken Korean War Ends 1953
28	29	Mexican Martes 30	31			29
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i> OMAHA POKER 7PM 		Beef Tips 			



Happy Independence Day &
Thanks
to all those who serve

