



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

December 2013
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American Legion Seward Post 5
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Happy Holidays! We're in it now! We've just completed our community Thanksgiving meal at the post and it was once again a huge event of deliciousness! Thanks to the crew who consistently makes it happen! I couldn't be more happy that these selfless people take time out of their busy lives to help and serve others in our community. Thanks guys! You rock!



We fed more this year than in previous years, and delivered more meals than in the past as well. You folks rose to the task to make it happen. It was a great time getting ready and serving our fellow veterans and local community members!



On Veteran's Day Post 5 held a ceremony at the Senior Center and visited Seward Mountain Haven. The members of the Post 5 family made it happen! Thanks to Jerry Blair, Suzi Towsley, Vernon Willet, David Dieckgraeff, Captain Ron, Ludwig Everett, and Sharon Dillon for representing and honoring veterans on this special day!

As I was gone for a major portion of November on leave, I want to be sure to officially thank Connie Kullander, Sharon Dillon, Vernon Willet, Michelle Swartz, David Joslin, Jesse Johnson, and David Osborne for taking the reigns and keeping things going. Although they're usually helping and running things throughout the week, they're the ones that were there and "on point" if something needed to be responded to. They were there and kept things running smoothly. Thanks so much, it made it very easy to take off knowing full well our post home was in such capable hands!

This past Saturday we said goodbye to a long time legionnaire and pillar of the Seward Community - Skip Fletcher. He was a wonderful man, had a kind word and a helping hand to all.

He will be sorely missed by all, and we send our heartfelt condolences to his family for their loss. Skip's loss will leave a big hole in this community for a long time but we are all richer for knowing him.

Okay, onto December, we all have quite a bit planned not only in our own lives and regular jobs but we have quite a few things planned at the post. It is of course the holiday season and we will be having our Christmas dinner as usual, so plan on a big and delicious meal. The Auxiliary has their annual Christmas Parade with Santa and Mrs. Claus giving out gifts to our local Seward kids at the post, and we will be finishing making up and mailing out our "Operation Apple Pie" packages to our local Seward young men and women who are in the service. Interspersed with these events we have all our regular events as well as the annual dinner for the USCG Cutter Mustang where we can meet some of the new crew, thank all for their service, and have a warm holiday get together. We also have a few other local Christmas parties that are in the making! ☺

Speaking of the holidays, we're starting to get the post spiffied up for the season so come on by, see our progress. We like making the post a warm and inviting place for members to come and visit and have a good time.

As we head into December it also means we're coming to the end of the 2013 membership year and the start of the 2014 year. I appreciate all who have joined or renewed and that shows we're a stable post and that we're growing. With good numbers of members at the local, state and national level it allows us to continue to



have a strong voice regarding veterans' medical and educational benefits. These collective voices speak "volumes" and have influence on lawmakers and decision makers regarding military members earned compensation for injuries and disabilities sustained while in the military. After all, one of the many roles of the American Legion posts is to provide service and comradeship to veterans, their families and the community. And how better done than helping a vet get healthy and receive the benefits and education which will assist him/her to be productive and viable in our community. The way we can help at this level is to be aware of what is going on in our community, seek an active membership, and promote involvement and volunteerism. We have a good crew in our Post 5 Family and have many who are dedicated volunteers (and we can always use more ☺), so come on down and see what we do - we even manage to have a lot of fun helping others!

I'd like to sincerely thank the crew of the **Mustang** who have consistently supported our post this year and in the recent years' past. They have been a great asset supporting the post for projects around the post home which needed strong backs and energy ☺ but more importantly they have been there, even with their busy



schedules for our parades, memorials and services. They have been there for our veterans who have answered the final call to "Post Everlasting," and they have worked with the Alaska National Guard's Honor Guard in these ceremonies which shows their maturity and willingness to take time out of their busy lives to help the community where they currently serve. These fine young service-members understand the notion of "service." They have demonstrated that time and again, and have willingly (and enthusiastically) participated in our post activities; and volunteer in our community service organizations in town that keep us all healthy and safe. I couldn't be more proud when I see these young servicemen do what they do, whether performing their official functions of rescue and law enforcement on seas or spending their free time in town as part of our community. Thanks again Mustang - know you are so very appreciated and we're thrilled you are a member of our veteran family!



This program has been in service in the National Guard for the last several years and is now coming to a close, due to returning active duty military members and budget cuts.

I want to express, on behalf of Post 5 and the members of the community whose memorial service this fine group of Alaska National Guard servicemembers served in a time of grief, our heartfelt thanks for a service that will always be gratefully remembered.



Thank you for your all you have done and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors back in the "civilian world." Keep Post 5 in your address book and if we can help, just let us know. You were here for us when we called, we stand ready to help if needed.

As we come to the close of 2013, I want to thank all in our Post 5 Family and our community for a good year of good deeds and good times, and I look forward to another good year of service and camaraderie! So come on down to the post, it is amazing how good it feels to be with like-minded people committed to service - doing good deeds to help others, especially your friends and neighbors. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!*

"For God and Country!"

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



First I would like to thank Connie Kullander, Sharon Dillon, Michelle Swartz, Jesse Johnson, David Joslin, Jerry Blair, Dave Osborn and Vernon Willet for taking good care of the Post and Club while I was on vacation.

We all thank everyone who volunteered their time, effort, and in some cases gasoline during Thanksgiving. We had a tremendous turn out of volunteers throughout the day on Wednesday and Thursday which allowed us to serve about 150 people in the community of Seward. We had about 70-75 to go orders and served about 75-80 at the Post. Great job to everyone!!!



In the above paragraph and in previous newsletters I wrote about the **Alaska National Guard Honor Guard** who has responded every time we needed them to honor our veterans who have passed here in Seward, and the family requested military honors. I can't say enough about this fine group of men and women who have always responded in time of need and gave a dignified military farewell to the veterans who have passed and expressed the gratitude of a grateful nation country to their families for their service.



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We have lots of activities scheduled for the Post and Club this month. We will host the **USCGC Mustana** crew and their families for dinner on Dec 7 so make plans to join us in welcoming new crewmembers and their families to Seward and just showing our appreciation for the great job done by our home town Coast Guard family.



We will be hosting the **Seward Employees** for their annual Christmas dinner/party on Dec 12 which should be a really fun time.



December 14th is the day for the Auxiliary's Christmas Parade and Gift Giving with Santa here at the post. That is always a fun and rewarding time here.

We will also hold a Christmas meal for the community on **Christmas Day**. Lots of work and lots of fun for a great cause in helping the community celebrate the holiday and enjoy some good food.

With all of that on tap for December, there are multiple chances for those who would like to volunteer time, effort, and gasoline again!! Please let me know if and when you are available and we will gladly put you to work!!

We still have Poker on Sunday and Monday, Monday Night Football, Pool League on Saturday, and the Auxiliary still has Bingo on Mondays. Come in out of the cold and enjoy the great food, drinks, and camaraderie at your Post home.

A continuing thanks to Dave Dieckgraeff and METCO for keeping our parking lot safe!!!!



Thanks to everyone who continues to support the Post and the Club. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 224-5440/362-2029.

For God and Country

Sounding Off from the Sons... By Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Winter is definitely here to stay!!

I want to thank SAL members Mike Banas, David Osborn, and Jesse Johnson for all their help to the Post, Club, and

Auxiliary this last month. They really stepped up when help was needed!!!

The Post has a *dinner for the Mustang crew on Dec 7th, a Christmas dinner and party for Seward employees on Dec 12th, breakfast on Dec 15th, and Christmas dinner on Dec 25th. Also the Auxiliary is having the Christmas Parade and Gifts with Santa on Dec 14th.* You can see there will be many opportunities to volunteer some time and effort this month. Please let us know if you have time to give and we will gladly put you to work.

Remember to check your membership cards and please renew your membership if you have not done so.

Thanks to all squadron members for your continued support and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 224-5440 or 362-2029.

Bill of Rights Day 15 December 2013

Excerpt from www.bordc.org. The Bill of Rights does not exist because government officials wanted to protect the rights of the people of the United States. It exists because the people, who knew firsthand what it was like to live as colonists under a king, demanded it and refused to ratify the U.S. Constitution without a promise that it would contain a Declaration of Rights. George Mason, drafted Virginia's Declaration of Rights, which had become part of that state's constitution, and he mounted a campaign to add a similar statement of fundamental rights to the U.S. Constitution.



It is interesting to look at the English Bill of Rights, from 1689, and to compare it to the U.S. Bill of Rights, created 100 years later. The English Bill of Rights was an act of Parliament that guaranteed the right of British subjects to petition the king and to bear arms. It also prohibited excessive bails, fines, and cruel and unusual punishment. The English Bill of Rights became part of the British Constitution and set a precedent upon which Enlightenment philosophers relied. Some of those philosophers lived in the American colonies, and they imported parts of the English Bill of Rights into the U.S. Constitution.

The Bill of Rights was meant to ensure basic rights during times of war and times of peace, regardless of who is in power. In order to ensure its future, we must keep using the First Amendment and speaking out when our rights and the rights of non-citizens are threatened.

In 1941, 150 years after the first 10 amendments were ratified, President Franklin Roosevelt declared December 15 "Bill of Rights Day."



"Operation Just Cause"
20 December 1989

Excerpt parts from US Army Center for Military History

On 20 December 89, only six weeks after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the United States conducted one of the shortest armed conflicts in American military history; it is also one of the most relevant to campaigns for military planners and historians as they anticipate conflicts in the 21st century.

Noriega had seized control of his country back in 1983 when he became head of the Panamanian National Guard. From this position of power, he was able to build up the military and manipulate elections so that the winning presidents would be his puppet leaders.



Corruption was widespread during Noriega's rule, and he was able to use his power to imprison and sometimes kill any who opposed him. In 1987 a former officer of the Panamanian defense force publicly accused Noriega of cooperating with Colombian drug producers.

The US responded by imposing strict sanctions that took an extensive toll on the country. On December 15, 1989, the Panamanian legislature declared Noriega president and that the US and Panama were in a state of war.



President Bush Announcing 1989 Invasion

Following the shooting of a U.S. Marine, President George Bush ordered Operation **JUST CAUSE**, an invasion consisting of over 25,000 soldiers. This was an extraordinarily complex operation, involving the deployment of thousands of personnel and equipment from distant military installations and

striking almost two-dozen objectives within a 24-hour period of time. The surgical precision and decisive maneuver employed by these U.S. forces minimized casualties on both sides of the conflict and avoided excessive damage to Panamanian property.



The military was able to quickly achieve its goals as Noriega surrendered on January 3, 1990. He was taken to the US, tried, convicted and jailed on drug trafficking charges and is currently serving his 40-year sentence in Miami.

JUST CAUSE represented a bold new era in American military force projection: speed, mass, and precision, coupled with immediate public visibility, concern for collateral damage, and early anticipation of postcombat mandates.

The nearly 26,000 U.S. military personnel who participated in Operation JUST CAUSE; deployed with virtually no notice to Panama from home stations throughout the United States. The rapid deployment and the speed with which the conflict was resolved is a tribute to the training and leadership of these personnel, as is the compassion and effectiveness with which they assumed their postcombat roles. Lessons learned from this experience will undoubtedly prove useful in future military operations as well.



Pearl Harbor Day

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the American Army and Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy. The attack came as a surprise to the American Army and Navy and lead to great losses of life and equipment. More than 2,000 American citizens were killed and more than 1,000 were injured. We also lost a large proportion of battle ships and nearly 200 aircraft that were stationed in the Pacific region. More than 60 Japanese servicemen were killed, injured or captured. The Japanese Navy also lost five midget submarines and 29 aircraft.



The Japanese military had hoped that the attack on Pearl Harbor would prevent the United States of America from increasing her influence in the Pacific. However, the events in Pearl Harbor actually led to the escalation of World War II. The day after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan and so entered World War II. President Franklin Roosevelt in a speech to Congress stated that the bombing of Pearl Harbor was "a date which will live in infamy". Shortly afterwards, Germany also declared war on the United States. In the months that followed the attack, the slogan "Remember Pearl Harbor" swept the United States and radio stations repeatedly played a song of the same name.



In 1991, which marked the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States Congress established the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Medal. This is also known as the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Medal and can be awarded to any veteran of the

United States military who were present in or around Pearl Harbor during the attack by the Japanese military. The medal can be awarded to civilians, who were killed or injured in the attack.

End of Operation Iraqi Freedom

Excerpt from Congressional Research Service and Conservapedia

On December 15, 2011, U.S Armed Forces in Baghdad marked the official end of the war in Iraq. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other top U.S. military leaders observed the official end of U.S. Forces Iraq's mission after nearly nine years of conflict that claimed the lives of nearly 4,500 U.S. troops.

Operation Iraqi Freedom was the largest of several active fronts in the ongoing War on Terrorism. Other fronts included Afghanistan, Philippines, and the Horn of Africa. Operation Iraqi Freedom began on 3 March 2003 with the removal of the Ba'athist regime of Saddam Hussein by a "Coalition of the Willing" led by the United States and allies including the United Kingdom.

An interim government, Constitutional Assembly, and later an elected Parliament and Executive have assumed authority, however sectarian insurgent violence has hindered stability and reconstruction efforts by US contractors and the new government.



Iraq's new Constitution strictly limits the emergency powers of the Executive in dealing with civil strife--a post Saddam democratic reform. "10 Years After the Invasion 40 per cent of Iraqi have a job and a quarter of families live below the World Bank's poverty line; Some in the younger generation of Iraqis who survived the years of violence see the decade of the US occupation as a requiem for their dream; education system is one of the things worst damaged by the war in Iraq, health and infrastructure are also on that list."



The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures... those men and women who answered our nation's call, especially in times of greatest need. Our mission is to honor and thank those veterans - especially our WWII veterans and Alaska Territorial Guard - by bringing them to Washington DC, for a day of honor, **AT NO COST TO THEM**. Please join the Last Frontier Honor Flight in sending them to experience their memorial built 60 years after they came home.

Trips are simply not possible without public support. Prior to Honor Flight Network, many veterans had given up all hope of ever seeing the World War II Memorial. Now they have hope, but time is not on the veterans' side. The time to act is now! The service of our WWII vets and their sacrifices saved the world from oppression and tyranny and this is a very small way of saying, "Thank you." Volunteer or send support, it will be a big difference for a group that gave so much and asked for so little!



Please visit: <http://www.tlffonorflight.org/>

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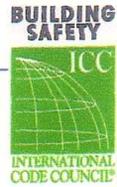
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December



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 "Texas Hold 'em" 6PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i>	2 BINGO!!! 6:30PM OMAHA POKER 7PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i> 	Mexican Martes 3 	4 Ham Dinner 	5 Chili Dogs 	Steak Night 6 KARAOKE 7PM 	7 USCGC Mustang Dinner
8 "Texas Hold 'em" 6PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i>	9 OMAHA POKER 7PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i> BINGO 6:30PM 	Mexican Martes 10 Post Meeting 7pm 	11 Auxiliary Meeting 7pm Burgers and Dogs	12 SAL Meeting 7pm City Employees Dinner	13 Steak Night KARAOKE 7PM 	14 Fried Chicken Pool League
15 "Texas Hold 'em" 6PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i> 3 rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast	16 BINGO!!! 6:30PM OMAHA POKER 7PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i> 	17 Mexican Martes 	18 Pork Loin 	19 Meat Loaf 	20 Steak Night KARAOKE 7PM 	21 Chicken Dinner Pool League
22 "Texas Hold 'em" 6PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i>	23 OMAHA POKER 7PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i> BINGO!!! 6:30PM	24 Mexican Martes 	25 Christmas Leftovers 	26 Steak Night KARAOKE 7PM 	27 Chicken Dinner Pool League	28
29 "Texas Hold 'em" 6PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i>	30 BINGO!!! 6:30PM <i>Luscious Leftovers</i> OMAHA POKER 7PM 	31 New Years Eve! NEW YEAR'S EVE HOR DOURVES AND NOSHIES				

