

# For God and Country



Seward Post 5 Newsletter  
American Legion Post 5  
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## Commander's Comments...

By: Clare Sullivan

What a year we've had and now we're heading fast into the Christmas holidays! 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 happier that these selfless people take time out of their busy lives to help and serve others in our community. Thanks guys! You totally rock!



We fed a lot of folks this year and had the delivery crew being Johnny on the Spot! Thanks so much you guys; you take time out of your busy lives and holidays to do these deliveries and help to put these meals together!

You folks rose to the task to make it happen, between the all the folks in the kitchen and the drivers it was a like a well-oiled machine! It was a great time getting ready and serving our fellow veterans and local community members!



On Veterans' Day Post 5 held a Veterans Day ceremony at the **Seward Senior Center** during their luncheon

honoring veterans, and we also had folks visit the elementary school to participate in their Veterans Day activities. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bobby Dunno and Member at Large Larry Gentry went to the elementary school proudly wearing their Post #5 caps. They met with the students who read poems they had written, sang patriotic songs, and displayed artwork; both Bobby and Larry were interviewed by the students and queried about being a veteran and about the military. It was a great experience and we hope to have more participants from Post #5 next year! These kids did a lot of work, and it shows the teachers were fully involved and wanted to make it a wonderful experience for all! I look forward to next year!

Many thanks go to Bobby Dunno, Larry Gentry, Suzi Towsley, WC Casey, Vernon Willet, "Captain" Ron Buckley for participating in the ceremonies and representing all veterans on this special day!



I want to be sure to thank all that were keeping the post going with all the activities this past month with the Club Manager/2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cdr and myself on leave. A huge shout out goes to Connie Kullander, Sharon Dillon, Michelle Swartz, David Joslin, David Osborne, Rebecca and Matt Brinkley, and Melody Moline for going above and beyond and keeping things going - this past month was hugely busy. I know there was a lot (as usual) going on but it was extra busy lately! Thanks so much, it made it very easy to take time off knowing our post home was in such capable hands!



Right after the Veterans Day activities the Auxiliary had their annual **Toys for Tots Auction and Dinner** on 14 November and, Wow!!!! It was another great success

with exciting items that were bid for by an enthusiastic crowd! Lots of great prizes went out and all proceeds went to the benefit of the kids in Seward with gifts when Santa and Mrs. Claus come in December!!!



Okay, onto December. All in the Post 5 Family have quite a bit planned at the post. It is of course the Christmas 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. And, to close out the month we will be planning our New Years' Eve Celebrations! So, if you want to help with anything or just want to come down to the post for some good food and fun times - we'll be there!

Speaking of the holidays, we're getting ready to get the post spiffed up for the season; come on by in the next few days to see our progress. We like making the post a warm and inviting place for members to come for some good food and drink and of course to have a good time.

As we head into December it also means we're coming to the end of the **2015 Membership Year** and the start of a new one. I appreciate all who have joined or renewed and that shows we're a stable post and that we are not only getting new members but are retaining existing ones. With strong numbers starting at the local level and moving up to the state and national level, it allows us to continue to have an influential voice regarding veteran's medical and educational benefits, as well as keeping abreast on what happens to our active duty as they transition out of the service. Our collective voice speaks "volumes" and has a strong influence on law-makers and decision-makers regarding military members' earned compensation as well as educational benefits for those transitioning out and needing a new career. One of the many roles of the American Legion is to provide service and comradeship to veterans, their families and the community. How better can we demonstrate this than helping a vet get healthy and receive the benefits that will assist him/her to be productive and viable in our communities? The way we can help at this level is to be a responsible citizen and legionnaire and to be aware of what is going on in our communities, involve oneself in efforts to serve, and promote volunteerism. We have a good crew of volunteers in our Post 5 Family who are dedicated to serve our veterans and our community, so come on down and see what we do, you'd be amazed what we can pull together and still manage to have a lot of fun helping others!



At this year's end I'd like to sincerely thank the crew of the USCG Cutter Mustang who have consistently supported our post this past year and in several years' past. They have been a great asset supporting the post on our projects and events around the post home, which often times needed strong backs and lots of energy!

More importantly, this crew has been there for our American Legion Family, even with the Coast Guard's busy work schedule, they have been there for our parades, memorials and services. They have been there for our veterans who have answered the final call to "Post Everlasting" ceremonies

*Merry*   
*Christmas* 

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

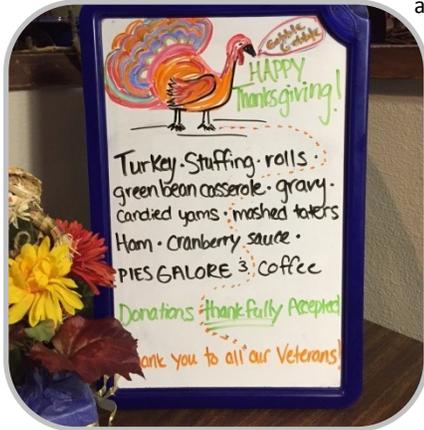
# House and Vice Reports...

By: Mike Calhoon

Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Winter weather has not hit yet but the winter season is definitely here. It has been a bit quiet around the Club as many members are now out of town for the winter or on vacations. It does give us time to hang out with friends we don't see much in the summer when everyone is so busy.

In November the club hosted our Veterans Day Dinner, our community breakfast, and Thanksgiving Day dinner. All the events were well attended and the volunteers, as always, really stepped up to help with the events. The volunteers were from all the American Legion Family organizations and we had some volunteers during Thanksgiving who are not members but just like to help. I commend all of you for giving your time and effort to help us serve our veterans and the community of Seward!



Thanksgiving who are not members but just like to help. I commend all of you for giving your time and effort to help us serve our veterans and the community of Seward!

This month we will have more great opportunities for volunteers to assist with Post functions here at the club. We will have the Auxiliary Unit 5 Christmas Parade and day with Santa on the 12<sup>th</sup>, our community breakfast on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and Christmas Dinner on the 25<sup>th</sup>, not to mention New Year's Eve on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Let us know if you would like to come help and we will keep you busy!

We still have poker on Sunday and Monday, Bingo on Monday, Pool League on Saturday, and for you sports fans, we always have a game



on TV. Come down to the club, drinking alcohol is not a requirement, and enjoy good food every night along with fun and good company.

The 2016 membership year is in full swing and we thank everyone who has renewed their memberships and encourage others to renew if they have not done so. Remember, membership is vital for the accomplishment of all things the American Legion and the Post 5 family do for veterans, their families, and our community.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and Club. I look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns

# Salutations from the Sons!

By: Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander,

Winter seems to still be on vacation. Maybe we can get the rain to turn to snow soon!

Things seem to have settled down into the normal winter routine but lots going on with the Post we can help with.

Veteran's Day, our community breakfast, and Thanksgiving were all well attended and assisted by SAL Squadron 5. Great job to all of you that contributed your time and effort to assist the Post with these very important activities. You Squadron 5 members are the greatest and you continue to show the support of the Post, our veterans, and the community of Seward.

In December we will have more opportunities to volunteer and assist. There will be the Auxiliary Unit 5 Christmas Parade and day with Santa on the 12<sup>th</sup>, community breakfast on the 20<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Meal on the 25<sup>th</sup>, and New Year's Eve on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Let us know when you can donate your time and we will gladly put you to work!



The 2016 membership year is in full swing so please consider renewing your membership if you have not done so already. Membership is what drives the train for the Sons of American Legion programs so please help us continue the great work being done by the Post 5 family.

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.



FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

# President's Post...

By: Nancy Perea

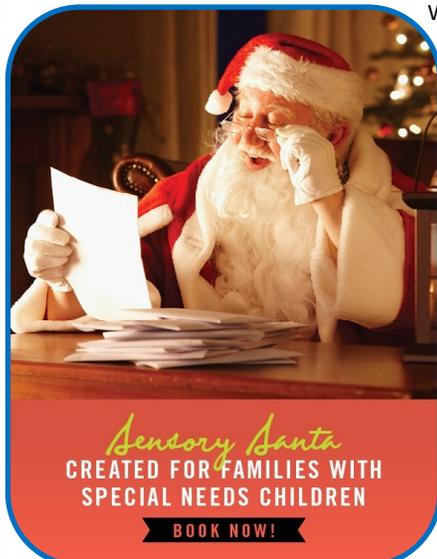
Happy Holidays from the Auxiliary,

We have so many things to be thankful for this year, it's hard to decide where to start. I've always been, and will always be, thankful to our Veterans who currently serve, and who have previously served our Country. Without these brave men and women, we wouldn't be where we are today. We celebrated Veterans Day at the Post with a beautiful cake and delicious dinner. It was an honor to celebrate the day with so many who gave so much for our freedom.

On November 14th, we had our Toys for Tots Auction that brought in approximately \$7,000 for our cause. Thank you to all of those who donated items for our auction and gave their time to help make it happen. I would also like to thank Mackenzie Perea and Leona Moline for helping make our beautiful wine baskets.

Several Post 5 members were out and about delivering Thanksgiving meals to those who were homebound on Thanksgiving. The Post then treated us to a spectacular Thanksgiving feast, filled with Turkey, Pie and all of the trimmings. No one in Seward should have been hungry Thanksgiving Day.

It's time to gear up for the annual Christmas parade with a visit from Mr. & Mrs. Clause. The parade will begin in front of the American Legion at 11:00am on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. The annual community Christmas Party will be held immediately afterward inside. We will have cookies to decorate and presents to hand out from Santa.



We will have something new this year, for our special needs friends. After our regular Christmas Party, we will have a Sensory Santa and Mrs. Clause. If you have never heard of a Sensory Santa (I had not until now), he is specialized for kids that have sensory processing disorders, such as Autism. Some children cannot be in large crowds, wait in long lines, be surrounded by high noise levels or cannot stand to be touched by Santa. For this special Santa visit, there won't be any lines, no loud noises and there will be a seat next to Santa for those children who want to get close to the jolly guy in red, but do not want to touch him. I believe that this will be the first Sensory Santa in Seward and feel blessed that I can be a part of it. This is a special event that requires an RSVP. If you have, or know someone who may be interested in seeing our Sensory Santa, please be sure to contact Nancy Perea at 907-362-3902 by December 4<sup>th</sup>. We want this to be a special day for all of Seward's children.

As I close, I am reminded why we, the Auxiliary do what we do.

# MERRY CHRISTMAS

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

# Attack at Pearl Harbor, 1941

"Attack at Pearl Harbor, 1941," EyeWitness to History, [www.eyewitnesstohistory.com](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com) (1997).



December seventh, 1941: the surprise was complete. The attacking planes came in two waves; the first hit its target at 7:53 AM, the second at 8:55. By 9:55 it was all over. By 1:00 PM the carriers that launched the planes from 274 miles off the coast of Oahu were heading back to Japan.

Behind them they left chaos, 2,403 dead, 188 destroyed planes and a crippled Pacific Fleet that included 8 damaged or destroyed battleships. In one stroke the Japanese action silenced the debate that had divided Americans ever since the German defeat of France left England alone in the fight against the Nazi terror.

Approximately three hours later, Japanese planes began a day-long attack on American facilities in the Philippines. (Because the islands are located across the International Date-line, the local Philippine time was just after 5 AM on December 8.) Farther to the west, the Japanese struck at Hong Kong, Malaysia and Thailand in a coordinated attempt to use surprise in order to inflict as much damage as quickly as possible to strategic targets.

Although stunned by the attack at Pearl Harbor, the Pacific Fleet's aircraft carriers, submarines and, most importantly, its fuel oil storage facilities emerged unscathed. These assets formed the foundation for the American response that led to victory at the Battle of Midway the following June and ultimately to the total destruction of the Japanese Empire four years later.

Aboard the USS Arizona: The battleships moored along "Battleship Row" are the primary target of the attack's first wave. Ten minutes after the beginning of the attack a bomb crashes through the Arizona's two armored decks igniting its magazine. The explosion rips the ship's sides open like a tin can starting a fire that engulfs the entire ship. Within minutes she sinks to the bottom taking 1,300 lives with her. The sunken ship remains as a memorial to those who sacrificed their lives during the attack. Marine Corporal E.C. Nightingale was aboard the Arizona that fateful Sunday morning: At approximately eight o'clock on the morning of December 7, 1941, I was leaving the breakfast table when the ship's siren for air defense sounded. Having no anti-aircraft battle station, I paid little attention to it. Suddenly I heard an explosion. I ran to the port door leading to the quarterdeck and saw a bomb strike a barge of some sort alongside the NEVADA, or in that vicinity. The marine color guard came in at this point saying we were being attacked. I could distinctly hear machine gun fire. I believe at this point our anti-aircraft battery opened up.



"We stood around awaiting orders of some kind. General Quarters sounded and I started for my battle station in secondary aft. As I passed through casement nine I noted the gun was manned and being trained out. The men seemed extremely calm and collect-

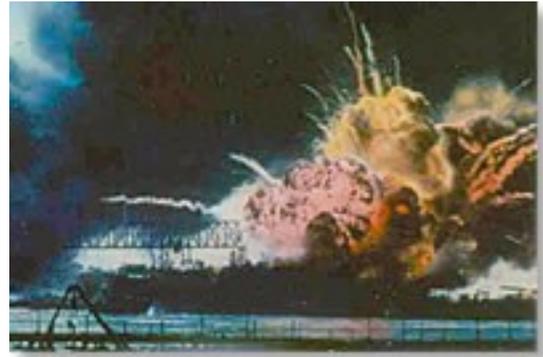


ed. I reached the boat deck and our anti-aircraft guns were in full action, firing very rapidly. I was about three quarters of the way to the first platform on the mast when it seemed as though a bomb struck our quarterdeck. I could hear shrapnel or fragments whistling past me. As soon as I reached the first platform, I saw Second Lieutenant Simonson lying on his back with blood on his shirt front. I bent over him and taking him by the shoulders asked if there was anything I could do. He was dead, or so nearly so that speech was impossible. Seeing there was nothing I could do for the Lieutenant, I continued to my battle station.

"When I arrived in secondary aft I reported to Major Shapley that Mr. Simonson had been hit and there was nothing to be done for him. There was a lot of talking going on and I shouted for silence which came immediately. I had only been there a short time when a terrible explosion caused the ship to shake violently. I looked at the boat deck and everything seemed aflame forward of the mainmast. I reported to the Major that the ship was aflame, which was rather needless, and after looking about, the Major ordered us to leave.

"I was the last man to leave secondary aft because I looked around and there was no one left. I followed the Major down the port side of the tripod mast. The railings, as we ascended, were very hot and as we reached the boat deck I noted that it was torn up and burned. The bodies of the dead were thick, and badly burned men were heading for the quarterdeck, only to fall apparently dead or badly wounded. The Major and I went between No. 3 and No. 4 turret to the starboard side and found Lieutenant Commander Fuqua ordering the men over the side and assisting the wounded. He seemed exceptionally calm and the Major stopped and they talked for a moment. Charred bodies were everywhere.

"I made my way to the quay and started to remove my shoes when I suddenly found myself in the water. I think the concussion of a bomb threw me in. I started swimming for the pipe line which was about one hundred and fifty feet away. I was about half way when my strength gave out entirely. My clothes and shocked condition sapped my strength, and I was about to go under when Major Shapley started to swim by, and seeing my distress, grasped my shirt and told me to hang to his shoulders while he swam in.



"We were perhaps twenty-five feet from the pipe line when the Major's strength gave out and I saw he was floundering, so I loosened my grip on him and told him to make it alone. He stopped and grabbed me by the shirt and refused to let go. I would have drowned but for the Major. We finally reached the beach where a marine directed us to a bomb shelter, where I was given dry clothes and a place to rest."

#### References:

Lord, Walter, *Day of Infamy* (1957), Prange, Gordon, *At Dawn We Slept* (1981), Wallin, VAdm. Homer N. *Pearl Harbor: Why, How, Fleet Salvage and Final Appraisal* (1968).



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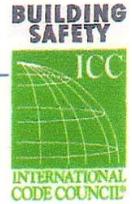
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>DECEMBER 2015</b>		1 <i>Mexican Martes</i>	2	3	4 <i>Steak Night</i>	5 <i>Pool League 6:30PM</i>
6 <i>Texas Hold'em 6:00pm</i>	7 <i>Bingo at 6:30PM Omaha Hold'em 7:00PM Pearl Harbor Day</i>	8 <i>Mexican Martes Post Meeting 7:00PM</i>	9 <i>Auxiliary Meeting 7:00pm</i>	10 <i>SAL Meeting 7:00PM</i>	11 <i>Steak Night</i>	12 <i>Santa and Christmas Parade Pool League 6:30PM</i>
13 <i>Texas Hold'em 6:00pm</i>	14 <i>Bingo at 6:30PM Omaha Hold'em 7:00PM</i>	15 <i>Mexican Martes</i>	16	17 <i>SAL Meeting 7:00PM</i>	18 <i>Steak Night</i>	19 <i>Pool League 6:30PM</i>
20 <i>Community Breakfast 9:00AM Texas Hold'em</i>	21 <i>Bingo at 6:30PM Omaha Hold'em 7:00PM</i>	22 <i>Mexican Martes</i>	23	24	25 <i>Christmas Dinner 2:00PM to 5:00PM</i>	26 <i>Pool League 6:30PM</i>
27 <i>Texas Hold'em 6:00pm</i>	28 <i>Bingo at 6:30PM Omaha Hold'em 7:00PM</i>	29 <i>Mexican Martes</i>	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>		

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