



# Veterans Strengthening America

## Seward Post 5 Newsletter

December 2025  
Volume 22, Issue 12

Post Email: [americanlegionpost5@gci.net](mailto:americanlegionpost5@gci.net)

[sewardpost5@gmail.com](mailto:sewardpost5@gmail.com)

Website: [www.americanlegionpost5.com](http://www.americanlegionpost5.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionpostfive.sewardalaska/>

Phone: (907) 224-5440

### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Wow! The Holidays have rolled in fast! We've just completed another community Thanksgiving dinner and it was once again a huge event of deliciousness!

We also had several former Marines celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday and a Veterans Day celebration at the post with something different this year, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Seward Elementary came to the post attended Edna Weir presentation, witnessed an Empty Chair Ceremony and got to sit with veterans to get more info on what a veteran is and ask all kinds of questions. Following that several post members went to the Senior Center for their luncheon honoring all veterans. All events were exceptionally well attended with lots of participation and fun by all. Thanks to all who remembered our veterans on this special day.

Thanks too to the crew who made our Thanksgiving dinner a great success; it's like a well-oiled machine at this point. Thank you all for returning every year! And, a big thanks to all the folks who donated turkeys, pies, stuffing and all the help in the kitchen! We even had some new faces in the mix! I am always so humbled that these selfless people take time out of their busy lives during the holidays to help and serve others in our community. Thanks guys! You Rock!

We had a good amount of folks (just under 100) come to the post to celebrate with us and we had the opportunity to deliver a lot of yummy meals (about 90-ish) to folks who were working or were not able to get out and spend time with family and friends. We hope we made everyone's Thanksgiving a bit warmer, tastier and more comforting. Our volunteer cooks, aka "the Kitchen Crew," really met the mission and made it happen, thanks too, to our decorators who made the post inviting; and of course, thanks to all the delivery drivers who got the meals delivered with "style" and timing! It was a great time serving our fellow veterans and the local community.



Okay, on to December, we all have a lot planned, not only in our own lives and 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 delicious meal. 😊

The Auxiliary has the Santa Parade planned with our Fire Departments, and Santa and Mrs. Claus for the youngsters in town. The elves and Santa will be giving out gifts at the post to our local Seward kids on December 13th. It will be a "sure to please" good time!!!



We will also be finishing making up and mailing out our "Operation Apple Pie" packages to our local Seward young men and women who are in the military. So, if you know any active-duty military from Seward please let us know so we can get some nice Christmas packages out to them ASAP! 🎄 ❄️ 🍷 Tick Tok time is running....

We will still be having our monthly breakfast this month with the Post's 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month Breakfast, so put it on your calendar! And, we will still be having all our weekly activities and nightly food for those hankering for something different or just tired from all the Christmas shopping! 😊



Another event in December is the **National Guard Birthday** which falls on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>. This year the National Guard is 386 years old.

An interesting item to take note of is the National Guard is the oldest military organization in America and was established in 1636. These dedicated citizen soldiers leave their jobs and families when called to serve, so on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December, take the time to thank and honor our National Guard, many of whom live and work right here in our community.



I'd would also like to specifically acknowledge the Alaska National Guard's Honor Guard who participates in many of our ceremonies that provide the final respects to our members and other veterans who have passed to "Post Everlasting." The fine men and women of these organizations

demonstrate maturity and willingness to take time out of their busy lives to help the community where they currently serve and to honor deceased veterans and this great nation.

Just one more mention of the Veterans Day at the Post. The 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Graders were wonderful guests at the post with doughnuts and hot chocolate and lively discussions with our veterans. We had veterans ranging from Vietnam to our most current conflicts. Many good stories were told and a history lesson about Edna Weir, a feisty WW1 Veteran who was an active member of our post!



Now that we're at the beginning of the holidays, we're starting to get the post spiffed up for the season so come on by and see our progress. We like making the post a warm and inviting place for members to come and visit, celebrate the holidays and have a good time in a friendly place.

As we head into December it also means we're coming to the end of the 2025 membership year and the start of the 2026 year. I sincerely appreciate all who have joined or renewed and that shows we're a stable and growing post.

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, rehabilitative and educational benefits. These collective voices from nearly 12,000 posts and close to two million members nationally speak "volumes" and have influence on our 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, helping others, promote community involvement, patriotism 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!

As we come to the close of 2025, I want to thank all in our Post 5 Family and our community of Seward for a good year of good deeds and good times. I look forward to continuing another "outstanding" year of service and camaraderie as we progress in our **second century of service!**

Soooo, 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.



**Hope you all have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!**





## Adjutant and Vice Report....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant!

Welcome to the holiday season. Hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and are looking forward to Christmas

Thanks to everyone who dedicated time and effort towards our November activities. There are too many volunteers for me to mention, without forgetting someone, so just know you have our gratitude for all you do. We could not accomplish what we do without the great volunteers. Whether you volunteer often or just occasionally, we truly appreciate it.



As always, I want to thank the great Club volunteers that give their time each week to keep the social area running and providing beverage and food service for all of you. **Please remember, these folks do not get paid and work for tips only.**

This month we will have the **Auxiliary Unit 5 Day with Santa on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the USCGC Bailey Barko Christmas party on December 13<sup>th</sup>, community breakfast on December 21<sup>st</sup>, and, of course, the Christmas meal on December 25<sup>th</sup>.** Saturday pool league and Sunday poker are going strong so check out the calendar for the dates and remember, these are members only activities.

We have started selling tickets for our next **gun raffle** which is for a Ruger Wrangler .22 cal revolver/Rossi Lever action .22 rifle combo. \$20.00 per ticket with only 120 tickets to be sold and the drawing to be held on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

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.

The new membership year of 2026 is in full swing. 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 your membership by going to [mylegion.org](http://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



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with lots of good food and family time.

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.

Squadron 5 members **Rick Brown and Terry Moon** helped with the ALR breakfast and **Randy Kockritz, Scott Wilde, and Dylan Galang** performed food prep and delivery support for the Post 5 Thanksgiving meal. Great job!!!



This month the Post will host the **Auxiliary Unit 5 Day with Santa on December 13<sup>th</sup>, the community breakfast on December 21<sup>st</sup>, and, of course, the Post Christmas meal on December 25<sup>th</sup>.** If you want to help with any of these activities, please let us know and we will gladly put you to work. 😊😊😊

The new membership year, 2026, is in full swing. If you have not renewed yet, please consider doing so. Dues are \$35.00. You can renew online at [mySAL.org](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## Bill of Rights Day

15 December 2025

As we celebrate the 234<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bill of Rights on December 15<sup>th</sup>- [Bill of Rights Day](#) we should look back at the origins and history of that day.

On December 15<sup>th</sup> 1791, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, later identified as the Bill of Rights, were ratified. James Madison was one of the original framers of the U.S. Constitution and our 4<sup>th</sup> President. He studied the shortfalls in the U.S. Constitution and authored many of these amendments to address them. Some of these amendments protect our most fundamental rights - freedom of speech, the freedom of protest and assembly and conscience, right to bear arms, freedom from search without warrant, the right to an attorney, the right not to testify against yourself and guarantees equal protection under the law. Most states embraced the Bill of Rights however, it is interesting to note that Massachusetts, Connecticut and Georgia did not ratify it until 1939.

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.

Madison's amendments were originally designed to extend the protection of some of the Bill of Rights to the States, however the amendments that were finally submitted for ratification applied only to the federal government. It wasn't until the 1860s that state governments benefitted, following ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment (equal protection under the law). Since the early 20th century both federal and state courts have used the Fourteenth Amendment to apply portions of the Bill of Rights to state and local governments.

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



## Member Spotlight

We're thrilled to be celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Bee Wilde Candle Company! The owners are both members of the Seward Post #5 Family. Scotty Wilde is a proud member of the Sons of the American Legion and Jackie is a Unit #5 Auxiliary Member! Congrats on your first "anniversary!" ❤️

### BEE WILDE CANDLE COMPANY CELEBRATING ONE YEAR

*Hand-poured. Heart-made. Locally created with love.*

Bee Wilde Candle Company is proud to mark our one-year anniversary. What began as a personal project at home has grown into a small Alaskan business rooted in family, creativity, and the memories that inspire our candles:

- Soy-based
- Hand-poured in Alaska
- Crafted with thoughtful scents inspired by the places and people we love

This milestone means a great deal to us, and we are grateful for the support from friends, family, and our community.

We're also happy and proud to be part the American Legion Post 5 family and appreciate the work you do for veterans and their loved ones.

Here's to our first bright year—and many more to come.



BEE WILDE  
*Candle the Legacy*

[beewildecandleco.com](http://beewildecandleco.com)

*Made with love—one candle at a time,*



For your convenience, a QR code is included below for easy access to our website.





## From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel

Happy Holidays! Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends and start looking forward to the rest of the holiday season. Although the weather outside has been frightful, there has been lots of activities, fun and comradery happening at the Legion.

Thanksgiving Dinner was once again prepared and delivered by our fabulous group of volunteers. About 90+ meals were delivered out into the community and another 90+ individuals enjoyed the meal at the Post. Again, many thanks to all the volunteers who help support this wonderful Thanksgiving tradition.

Looking for a unique holiday gift? The Auxiliary Pet Calendars have arrived. Featuring many of our Post family's pets. The 2026 calendar lists many of the important military dates and events happening in 2026. Calendars are \$20. Contact Debbie.



Huge thank you to Ms. Lunardi's first grade class at Seward Elementary school for making Christmas cards to be included in the Operation Apple Pie boxes that will be sent to local service members who cannot be home for the Holidays. I am sure a handmade card from hometown students will put a smile on the service members face.



The Annual Santa Firetruck Parade and Toys for Tots program will be **December 13, 2025**. A little change for the year, the Parade will start at 1200 Noon at the Post. This change was made to coordinate better with the annual Breakfast with Santa program hosted by the Rotary club and Parks and Recreation department. This is always a fun day with the children enjoying a ride on the Fire Trucks and then getting a gift from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

### Toys for Tots Firetruck Parade with Santa



After the parade, hot chocolate and snow globes will be awarded and each child will get to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. Each child will receive a present from Santa.



When: December 13, 2025  
Time: 1200 NOON  
Where: American Legion Post 5  
5th and Jefferson

As always, we will be looking for volunteers to come in and help with the Parade. If you want to help, come to the Post at 10:00 AM.

In preparation for the Parade and gift giving on **December 6, 2025** at Noon we will need volunteers to decorate the Post for Christmas and help wrap all the presents.

Along with all the extra holiday events, we have the regular events happening at the Post.

Every Monday night is Bingo. Doors open at 6 PM and the games start promptly at 630 PM. Always a great night to get out of the house and come down to the Legion for some fun and maybe even win some money but more importantly support the Auxiliary. Do not need to be a member to play.

Every Saturday night is members only Pool League. Games start at 7 PM

Every Sunday night is members only Texas Hold Em Poker. Game starts at 5 PM

Third Sunday breakfast is December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Christmas Dinner December 25<sup>th</sup>

New Years Eve December 31<sup>st</sup>

### Other Important Military Dates in December

Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) Birthday December 1

National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day December 7<sup>th</sup>

US National Guard Birthday December 13<sup>th</sup>

I hope everyone has a joyous and Happy Holiday season and gets to spend time with family and friends. Remember our troops and service members who can not be home for the holidays and say a special thank you for their service and sacrifice.



MEMBER BUSINESS ADS

BRASS BONES

Sam Clemons Jewelry Artist/Owner

Lavina Dickinson  
MASSAGE THERAPIST

*Therapeutic Massage & Bodywork*  
SWEDISH, CRANIOSACRAL THERAPY, DEEP  
TISSUE, TRIGGERPOINT, REIKI, AROMATHERAPY  
DYNAMIC CUPPING

Massage License: AK #042300 / TX #MT732848  
Cell: 907-599-0534 | Email: lavina.dickinson@me.com | Book: www.lavinadec.com  
By Appointment Only: 10708 Lapine Cir, Seward, AK 99664

VA Approved Provider

ANCHOR SUMMIT  
Wellness Clinic  
ACUPUNCTURE | HERBAL MEDICINE | MANUAL THERAPIES | HOLISTIC HEALTH

DR. CHRISTIE WISEL, DACM, LAC  
LICENSED ACUPUNCTURIST

VA Approved Provider



**Savoy Ximenez**  
Owner/Operator  
SAVOY PAINTING

spaximates@outlook.com  
Work  
(907) 615-9999  
Cell

Save Contact



**Joey Smith**  
Owner | Pilot | Mechanic

907-978-3089  
sewardairtours@gmail.com  
sewardair.com

2300 Airport Rd  
Seward, AK

SEWARD INSURANCE AGENCY  
BUSINESS and PERSONAL INSURANCE

Erick C. Amberg  
Agent

PO Box 2103  
Seward, AK 99664

(907) 224-7370 • Office  
(907) 224-7330 • Fax  
(907) 362-1558 • Cell  
sewardinsurance@ak.net

Locally owned & operated



"If it has a key, we  
have a policy to fit it!"

ADVENTURE SIXTY NORTH

907.224.2600

ADVENTURE  
SIXTY NORTH

adventure60.com  
info@adventure60.com

31872 Herman Leirer Rd.  
Seward, Alaska 99664

SEWARD MILITARY RESORT

Lodging  
Special

NOW - APRIL 30TH

STAY 2 NIGHTS,  
GET THE 3RD NIGHT FREE!

CHECK OUT OUR ROOMS AT  
SEWARDRESORT.COM  
OR

CALL US AT: (907) 224-2659/5559  
TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION



Bee Wilde Candle Company  
Made in Alaska

beewilde907@gmail.com




































beewildecandleco.com

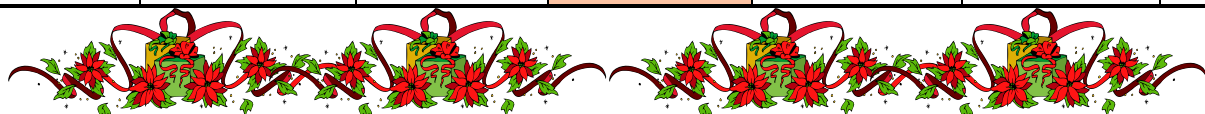




# December 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	Mexican Martes 2	3	4	Steak Night 5	6
	BINGO 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 		 Jewelry Class 6:00 pm	Burgers & Bacon Mac and Cheese  Pioneers Igloo #9 Meeting		Pool League 7:00 pm 
Pearl Harbor Day 7	8	Mexican Martes 9	10	11	Steak Night 12	National Guard Birthday 13
Fly Flags at Half Staff  National PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY December 7 Luscious Leftovers Poker 5:00pm	BINGO 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 	Post Meeting 5:30pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm  Jewelry Class 6:00 pm	SAL Meeting 7:00 pm  Burgers & Bacon Mac and Cheese		Santa Parade and Gift Giving  USCGC Bailey Barko Christmas Party
14	Bill of Rights Day 15	Mexican Martes 16	17	18	Steak Night 19	20
Luscious Leftovers Poker 5:00pm 	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 		 Jewelry Class 6:00 pm	 Burgers & Bacon Mac and Cheese		Pool League 7:00 pm 
21	22	Mexican Martes 23	24	Christmas 25	Steak Night 26	27
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month Breakfast  Luscious Leftovers Poker 5:00pm	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 		Homemade Soup and Bread Night 	Dinner 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm 		Pool League 7:00 pm 
28	29	Mexican Martes 30	31			
Luscious Leftovers Poker 5:00pm 	BINGO!!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs 		New Year's Eve!! Bring on the NEW YEAR! Seward Post #5 106 <sup>th</sup> Birthday!! 			



Food Served Every Night at the Post

# Toys for Tots Firetruck Parade with Santa



Dress Appropriately for Weather. Children will be riding on top of the Firetrucks

After the parade, hot chocolate and snacks will be provided and each children will get to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. Each child will receive a present from Santa



**When:** December 13, 2025

**Time:** 1200 NOON

**Where:** American Legion Post 5  
5th and Jefferson