



Veterans Strengthening America

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan

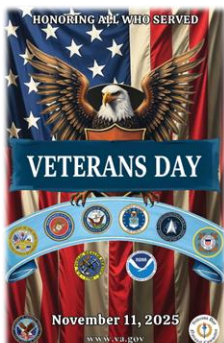


What a great Fall and we've dodged the snow, like nearly everyone else! We're also half-way through the "ber" months now and the holidays are coming upon us! We've had a good month at the post with our weekly activities and of course Halloween and our nightly meals. I think having food (and Halloween Candy) at the post every night helps to "round out the edges" when funds get tight as the summer months and the tourism jobs are now done for the season.

We had fun and festive Halloween. and as "per SOP" the Post was decked out in all its Halloween finery. 🎃 🧛 🦇 🧛 🧛 Our crew really made it happen with welcoming our guests and members in Post 5 Family form - the food was exceptional! The homemade Halloween noshies were wickedly tasty and filling! Thanks to Maryanna Rowe



I especially want to thank all our volunteers that make the "Social Area" an enjoyable place to come and share a meal, and a refreshing beverage. Your help everyday behind the bar and in the kitchen make all the world of difference! The post is everyone's "post home," and I am happy many folks are taking advantage of what we have offer.



This month we have a few special events - a Veterans Day celebration at the Post on Veterans Day with the 4th and 5th graders between 9:00 and 11:30 am and at noon at the Senior Center, both on Tuesday the 11th. We'll also have our Thanksgiving Day Dinner on the 27th. As you know we

go all out to promote and celebrate patriotic and historic days, and these November days are well worthy of remembering and celebrating, among many others, such as the Marine Corps. Birthday on November 10th. 😊

Okay, as I do every year, I've been collecting names and addresses for our service members for **Operation Apple Pie** so, get those addresses to me and we'll get a fun package to our Seward kids who are serving in our armed forces - in time for the holidays! We want to get some good stuff out to them as they continue to serve this great country!

As mentioned, we had a great Halloween where we invited the young trick or treaters to the Post where they got a taste of how we do Post 5 Halloween. We had plenty of witches, ghosts, goblins and of course candy! I'd also like to thank those who came to our scary and nightmarish and noisy locale. It was a win-win as it was Steak Night and Halloween! Lots of inspired treats for all and of course tasty ribeye steaks!!! 🍽️ 🧛 🦇 🧛 🧛 🦇

November is **Membership Retention Month**. We're at 66.80% and we have just passed the target of 65% by 13 November and have a goal of 75% by 10 December. Your 2025 membership card is good through December.

I understand and empathize with all as we are continuing to take a hit with this economy, and as the holidays loom in our direction renewals generally slow down. So, if you have renewed - thank you! I really appreciate it!! 🍷 If you haven't, please consider renewing and continue with your benefits of membership and help your Post reach our membership goals for the next few months. Remember too; to stop by the Post and say hello and grab a bite, we always have free food for our members and those in need!

For planning purposes we're already looking toward Thanksgiving at the Post. We provide a full Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day beginning around 1:30 pm.

All are welcome! We also deliver meals to those who cannot physically get out to the post and/or are housebound, so if you or anyone you know are infirmed or disabled, please let us know so we can add them to our delivery list. We don't want anyone to go hungry or be forgotten.



From the President's Desk

By Deb VanTassel

Welcome to November and wintery weather. Hope everyone had a great Halloween even though there was some frightful weather the last few weeks.

Again, many thanks to all the Legion family volunteers who are vital to making all the activities and events at the Post happen. We would not be able to accomplish any of the many things we do without our volunteers.

If you have not renewed your membership for 2026, now is a great time to get it renewed. The 2025 cards are good until December 31st but the old saying is... no time like the present so get your membership renewed and then you don't need to think or worry about it for another year.

Now that the wintery weather has set in and it is getting dark so much earlier- remember Bingo every Monday night is a great way to get out of the house and have some fun. Doors open at 6:00 PM and games start at 6:30 PM. Please be on time so that the games can start at 6:30 PM. Again, thank you to all the volunteers who keep the Bingo excitement going.

Another good way to get out of the house for some fun activities at the Post- Saturday night Pool league for members and on Sunday is Texas hold 'Em Poker for members.

Veterans Day- November 11, the school children will be coming to the Post to greet Veterans and recognize them for their service.

November 14, the Auxiliary will have a silent auction set up during steak night. Proceeds will go to fund the many programs and projects that the Auxiliary does during the year.

Mark your calendars for **December 13th**- the Santa Firetruck Parade and Toys for Tots program will be happening at the Post. This year the Parade will start at 12:00 Noon as we are coordinating with the Seward Rotary and Parks and recreation with their breakfast with Santa program. In years past it was always a challenge for those that attended the second seating of the breakfast with Santa to make it down in time for the parade. By moving the parade up an hour, it will make it easier for everyone to do both activities.

November is National Veterans and Military Family Month, Warrior Care Month and National Family Caregivers Month.

Other important days in November....

November 10- Marine Corp Day/Birthday

November 11- Veterans Day- Thank you to all the Veterans for your service and sacrifice.

November 11- Armistice/Remembrance Day-Remembrance Day, also known as Armistice Day or Poppy Day, is technically meant to honor the end of World War I, which occurred at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. But Remembrance Day has long been a time to pay respect to the fallen from all wars.

November 27- Thanksgiving- once again the Post will be preparing a fabulous holiday meal. Volunteers will be needed to help prepare and deliver the meals out in the community and at the Post.

Hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable November.

Veterans Day

By multiple Internet excerpts

World War I - known at the time as "The Great War" - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

On November 11th at 11:11, 1921 the U.S., France and England each buried an unknown soldier in honor of those who died in World War I. This began the annual Armistice Day holiday. The time and day was picked because fighting ceased in WWI in 1918 on November 11th at 11:11. In keeping with the tradition, work stops on this day and time each year for a moment of silence. Please remember to recognize and thank our Veterans on this day.

Veterans Day, this year is officially on Tuesday November 11, 2025, Veterans Day honors all members of the Armed Forces who served this country. They served and fought to protect us, to keep our country safe, and to preserve our way of life. Veterans gave their time and risked their lives for us all. In some cases, they made the ultimate sacrifice.

This holiday was originally called Armistice Day and was first celebrated in 1921. In 1954, President Eisenhower changed it to Veterans Day, in honor of American Veterans who served in all wars. The holiday now is intended to thank veterans for their service and to underscore that all those who served — both the living and the dead — have made sacrifices in performing their duty to the nation.

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.



In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: *"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."*

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."



President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when the VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.



The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Veterans Day Traditions

In the United States, an official wreath-laying ceremony is held each Veterans Day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, while parades and other celebrations are held in states around the country.

Cities and towns across the U.S. hold Veterans Day parades, celebrating military service and providing public recognition for veterans. Large cities, such as New York, host major parades with thousands of participants, while smaller communities have more intimate gatherings.

Schools often hold assemblies, classroom lessons, or invite veterans to speak to educate students about military history and the importance of service. Students may also create cards, artwork, or projects to honor veterans. Adults can participate by attending local lectures or museum events highlighting military contributions.

Individuals may write thank-you letters, visit memorials or cemeteries, buy coffee or meals for veterans, or support veteran-owned businesses. Restaurants and stores often offer special discounts or free meals for veterans on this day.

Adjutant and Vice Report..

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice and Adjutant!

What an interesting end to October with thunder and lightning followed by an earthquake. Now, November is starting out with beautiful weather to help us get those last-minute outdoor projects done before the snow flies. Enjoy while it's here.

Thanks to everyone who dedicated time and effort towards our October activities. 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.**

I hope you are all enjoying the great Halloween décor provided by the hours of work from Clare Sullivan, Maryanna Rowe, Connie Kullander, and Tyna Siptrott. Wonderful job!!!!

This month we will have ALR breakfast on November 8th, Veterans Day with 4th and 5th graders on November 11th, the community breakfast on November 16th and Thanksgiving meal on November 27th. Saturday pool league and Sunday poker are going strong so check out the calendar for the dates and remember, these are members only activities.

Thanks to everyone who supported our latest gun raffle and made it a great success. We will be starting another gun raffle soon so watch for the start of ticket sales soon.

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 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.

What a nice weather start to November after an unusual end to October. Keep getting ready for the winter while the weather allows.

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. I want to thank Rick Brown who helped with the community breakfast and picked up ribeyes for steak night.

This month the Post will host the ALR breakfast on November 8th, Veterans Day on November 11th, the community breakfast on November 16th, and Thanksgiving Meal on November 27th. 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, 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.



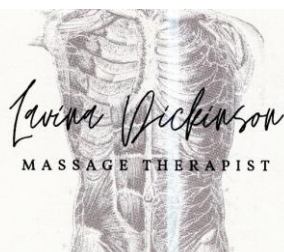
Our monthly meeting is held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, and all Squadron 5 members are invited to attend.

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.

Members Business Page

BRASS BONES

Sam Clemons Jewelry Artist/Owner



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Cell: 907-599-0534 | Email: lavina.dickinson@me.com | Book: www.lavinadee.com

By Appointment Only: 10708 Lupine Cir, Seward, AK 99664

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Seward, Alaska 99664

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have a policy to fit it!"

Joey Smith

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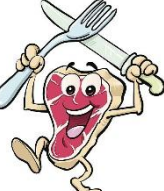
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November

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
  						1
Daylight Savings Time 2	3	Mexican Martes 4	5	B,B,M&C 6	Steak Night 7	8
Día De Los Muertos All Souls Day  Luscious Leftovers Members Poker 5:00 pm	Chili Dogs BINGO 6:30PM 		Jewelry Class With Carol Souza 6:00pm 	Pioneers of AK Meeting 6:30pm 		Pool League 7pm  ALR Breakfast
9	Marine Corps Birthday 10	Mexican Martes 11	12	B,B,M&C 13	Steak Night 14	15
Luscious Leftovers Members Poker 5:00 pm	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Happy 250th Birthday!	Post Meeting 5:30pm Veterans Day 	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm  Jewelry Class With Carol Souza 6:00pm	Sons Meeting 7pm 		Pool League 7pm 
16	17	18	19	B,B,M&C 20	Steak Night 21	22
Luscious Leftovers Community Breakfast  Members Poker 5:00 pm	Chili Dogs BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 		Jewelry Class With Carol Souza 6:00pm 			Pool League 7pm 
23/30	24	Mexican Martes 25	26	Thanksgiving 27	Steak Night 28	29
Luscious Leftovers Members Poker 5:00 pm	Chili Dogs BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 		Jewelry Class With Carol Souza 6:00pm 	Dinner at the Post! 1:30-4:30pm  Happy Thanksgiving		Pool League 7pm 



Food Every Night at the Post!!!!