



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

American Legion Seward Post 5
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Bobby Dunno



It had to happen I suppose but our warm, wet and busy summer is coming to a close. Soon the tourist will be gone and the normal routine we all establish during the winter months will once again become our routine. How many reading this are hoping for a sunny Indian Summer to make up for the wet one we just had ☺. There was lots going on from saying hello to old friends coming up to visit to sad good byes as some we held dear moved away.



Especially all the members of our treasured family aboard the **CGC Mustang**, of course along with good friends leaving for other assignments we also got to welcome new crewmembers who reported aboard the Mustang and will always be part of our American Legion Family.

I want to take a few minutes to thank our many volunteers who spent time at the Post or helped out at the Legion Cemetery and participated in one of our many functions and activities that we sponsor.



Without your faithful service Post 5 would not be the warm and welcoming place so many love to and look forward to visiting. These days in my all too infrequent visits, (you would think a Post Commander would hang out more often) the atmosphere and welcoming attitude everyone here has always overwhelms me with a genuine sense of belonging. That and the good and important services we provide to those around us is why I endeavor take satisfaction in being a Post 5 member.



But this month we do have some days of note. **September 11 is Patriot Day** when we should all take pause and remember the tragic events surrounding the terror attack in New York, Washington DC and a quiet field in Pennsylvania where Flight 93 fell to earth when brave citizens decided not to sit idle and become victims. **POW/MIA Recognition and American Legion Day** both fall on September 16. A unique opportunity to reflect on the American Legions 97 years of service and to honor those who suffered and sacrificed as Prisoners of War and those who have yet to return home lost in long ago battlefields and remembered but in history and the hearts of families who remain hopefully that someday their loved ones will be accounted for.

In finishing this article, I want to express how proud and humble I feel to be the Post Commander and although the words still sound a little strange when someone calls me that I am also very proud of what the American Legion Family at Post 5 has accomplished. We have an awesome group of caring individuals and wonderful to be able to be a small part of it.



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1st Vice Notes...

By Clare Sullivan

Well, another summer is just about done and it was a fast and furious one for sure for the Post 5 Family. It was great seeing all our out of town visitors and members coming down for some fun and work on Resurrection Bay! We had some really great weather this year as well as the opportunity to visit with many of our membership who come to Seward. It is always good to see everyone and it is just as sad to see them go. We see them off with a feeling of bittersweet because we have enjoyed their company while they're here but we know they have to go back to the Lower 48 to their families and return to their regular lives. We wish them well and look forward to their return next summer!



other goodies to celebrate our country's independence. We had a great showing in the parade with our Country's Colors flying carried by our Mustang Crew leading the parade and our ALR following right behind proudly flying the Post 5 Family's organizational flags. A good time was had by all!!! August was just as busy with the addition of all the town's events with the Silver Salmon Derby and the visit from the crew of the USCG Ice Breaker Healy on their annual stopover in Seward.

We did a bit of a change up in our schedule by the Auxiliary having their annual Toys for Tots Dinner and Auction in August. It was a huge success where between the auction items and the raffle they were able to raise well over \$12,000 which will go to purchase Christmas gifts for the kids in Seward when Santa and Mrs. Claus come by the post!



Our summer was as filled with activities that supported our community, membership, and our active duty personnel. We went full speed ahead by getting the post spiffed up early on starting with the renovation project on the south wall and building's gardens; we got the cemetery ready for Memorial Day, and of course we had dedicated Post 5 Family Members making it all happen. From Tom Sears' dedication, talent and crew organization in getting our south wall redone to David (Ozzie) Osborn and some amazingly dedicated volunteers working to make the cemetery fitting to honor those who have answered the final call to Post Everlasting - our membership was "on it!"

Throughout the summer we hosted several military personnel who made stopovers in Seward and while they were here we functioned as a local support base for these young military men and women. It was great to see them while at the same time it allowed us to introduce the next generation to the American Legion and what it means to continue to serve after completing military service. We celebrated Armed Forces Day, Flag Day, and started it all out with our Memorial Day Ceremonies. We also had lots of fun and work with our participation in the 4th of July events to include the cooking up and serving several hundred pounds of baby back ribs with beans, potato salad and



There were some really great donations by very generous people and businesses in town. The Auxiliary did a superb job and many, many thanks for all the work they did to make this a absolutely stellar event!



It starting to look like we're heading right into the Fall; hopefully it will be as nice a transition as we had into Summer. The daylight is getting much shorter and we're starting to drive with headlights on at night now that we're getting darkness back. It is a sure sign that the colder days are on their way. With this in mind, we need to think about getting our homes ready for the cold weather and for many we'll need to budget for the increased heating and utility charges with the cold and dark.

During this month we have a few days of remembrance and celebration. We have **Patriot Day** (Sept 11th) where we remember the tragic day of 9/11 and those lost in the terror attack in NY, the Pentagon, and Flight 93 in Pennsylvania .



We also have **POW/MIA Recognition Day** on Sept 16th where we remember and honor the sacrifices made by this nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. Also on the 16th we have a day of celebration in the **American Legion Day**. This day was dedicated in 2009 on the anniversary of the establishment of the American Legion in 1919.

American Legion Birthday!!!!

This year we are celebrating 97 years of service that the American Legion has accomplished throughout the country with over 14,000 posts honoring veterans and providing community support. Seward Post 5 has been in existence since the beginnings of the American Legion as a national organization in 1919 and remains committed to carrying on that tradition of supporting local veterans and the community, as well as our military service members.

We assist our veterans in securing benefits, treatment, and compensation from the Veterans Administration commensurate with their military service. We work hard to keep patriotic holidays alive in the minds of our community, because we know our holidays are a celebration of our incredible history as a country, and if you lose your history you will lose your sense of who you are as a nation. We work to provide help to those in need when times get hard and provide scholarships to our graduating seniors and others in post- secondary schools for their educational goals.

Patriot Day

Patriot Day is an annual observance on September 11 to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001. Many Americans refer Patriot Day as 9/11 or September 11.



On the direction of the President, the flag of the United States of America should be displayed on the homes of Americans, the White House and all United States government buildings. The flag should be flown at half-mast as a mark of respect to those who died on September 11, 2001. Many people observe a moment of silence at 8:46 AM (Eastern Daylight Time). This marks the time that the first plane flew into the World Trade Center.

On September 11, 2001, four planes were hijacked. The hijackers then deliberately flew three of the planes into two important buildings, the Pentagon in Washington

DC and the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. The fourth crashed into a field near Shanksville,



Pennsylvania. The loss of life and damage that these hijackings caused form the States soil. Nearly 3000 people died in the attacks and the economic impact was immense.

The attacks have greatly increased attention to national security in the United States. This has had huge implications for United States national and international politics. This is particularly true for the relationships between the United States and Islamic countries in the Middle East.



Salutations from the Sons

By Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Salmon Derby, what there was of it, has come and gone and the end of summer is on the horizon. Where did the time go!

Squadron members showed their volunteer spirit once again during the month of August. Auxiliary Unit 5 had their Toys for Tots auction and fundraiser, there was a visit from the USCGC Healy and we hosted the crew for dinner, we had the community breakfast the last Sunday of Salmon Derby, all this along with the normal goings on at the Post.



September will bring our monthly meeting on Sept 15th which is actually the 3rd Thursday of the month but falls in line with the other organizational meetings that week. We will have our community breakfast on Sept 18th, Early Bird dinner will be on Sept 24th.

There will be plenty to do to support the Post so get ready and lets roll up our sleeves and go to work.

The new membership year has started. The SAL Dues for 2017 will increase to \$30.00 and we will be sending out notification to all members of the change.

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.

Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

On September 17, 1787, the Founding Fathers signed the U.S. Constitution. For the past 225 years, the Constitution has served as the supreme law of the land. The Constitution, along with the Bill of Rights and other amendments, define our government and guarantee our rights.

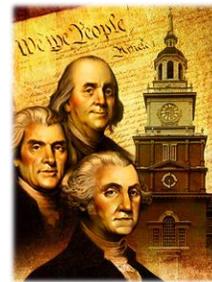
Each year, on September 17, Americans celebrate **Constitution Day and Citizenship Day**. In addition, September 17-23 is also recognized as **Constitution Week**.

Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution by thirty-nine brave men on September 17, 1787, recognizing all whom are born in the U.S. or by naturalization, have become citizens. Now **Constitution Day** is the time to carry on their legacy and develop habits of citizenship in a new generation of Americans.

In 1952 Congress passed a law that September 17 was the official date to commemorate "the formation and signing of the Constitution of the United States" but the day was also designated "Citizenship Day" and retained its original purpose of recognizing all those who had attained the status of American citizenship.

Citizenship Day, is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. This is one of the newest federal holidays to be established by Congress, as it was passed in just 2004. Citizenship Day was the name given to the holiday prior to its official designation.

However, the roots of Citizenship Day stretch much farther back beginning in 1940 when *I am an American Day* was initiated by Congress for the third Sunday in May. The day of September 17th was reached by citizens themselves. In 1952 Olga T. Weber of Ohio successfully convinced her municipality to name the date Constitution Day. The next year she went a step further and petitioned the Ohio government to celebrate the holiday statewide as Constitution Week from September 17-23 and the movement was soon passed.



Today we consider Constitution Day as a way for American citizens to express their pride in their citizenship. Constitution Day also designates a time to honor the Constitution of America and learn more about the famous piece of legislation.

The Act that passed the holiday also states that federally funded schools are required to provide lessons on the U.S. Constitution during the holiday.

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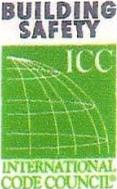
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