



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

August 2018
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American Legion Seward Post 5
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Summer is still running on with some amazing weather! I was stunned at the excellent weather we had over the 4th; what a great time for everyone and fortunately all the events at the post and in the town came off brilliantly! We had ordered just the right amount of ribs and everyone got to have these tasty treats both on the outside of the building watching the race and the parade as well as up at the club. We sold out on the ribs, but not too early or too late. It was just enough and lots of folks had some good chow! And, to top it all off the Auxiliary had their legendary ice cream floats that were a welcome relief from the hot weather. The good food and good fun rep continues for the Post 5 American Legion Family!

We couldn't do what we do without the exceptional and dedicated volunteers who cheerfully commit time to help us do what we do for our veterans, our community throughout the year and particularly on big events like the 4th of July. Everything you all did from prepping and cooking ribs, dishing out the fabulous chow to all our guests at the post or participating in the parade you made the day a huge success for all! We even had some new (and successful) activities to our event where we had live music by Chris Crain and a beer garden (thanks to the suggestion and "beertending" skills of Tom Sears!)! It was a good time for all and I want to thank you all for all you do and continue to do to support us and our efforts in town.

We're particularly grateful for our USCGC Mustang crew who year after year are the lead of the parade and do a great "rep" for the Mustang and American Legion in true style!!



This summer is flying by and before you know it the trees are going to start to turn golden, so "get on" your summer projects because before you know it, we will be feeling that chill in the air and the end of the summer and fishing season.

As I hear it, the Silvers are starting to come in so that is a sure sign the summer is starting to wane down so get your summer moving! It is even getting a little dark at night and we're having to put the cars' headlights on, so that definitely tells me we're on the backside of summer!

This month has the 63rd Silver Salmon Derby between August 11-19th going on in town and it will be very busy with visitors, which is good for our little town and everyone who has a business will see more traffic through their doors. The long winter months with slower business and higher operating costs puts a burden on them as well as all of us who call Seward our home. With that in mind, if you can buy locally please do so. We're fortunate to have the services, shops, and good restaurants that stay here and stay open for us even in the slower (and colder) times of year. But back to the Derby, good luck to all who participate, there are some good prizes to be won and not just good fish!



I'd like to thank all who have consistently supported our post and our American Legion Family by coming to the club, and those who take the time to help during or official functions and come to



thank you!

monthly meetings. Simply, we wouldn't be here without your support at whatever level you choose to do. As you know, the American Legion is a multifaceted organization with

the mission of "mutual helpfulness," and that is what we strive to do in Seward. Daily, you can see the functioning of the club including our meals, the bar and nightly activities, all of which are designed to support and entertain our membership. In the larger picture of our organization, we use these daily activities to give us the ability to accomplish the mission of supporting people in town who need help and provide a friendly location for people to come and associate in a safe place. We often refer to our "social area" as our other "living room" as people come and can relax and have some good (and at times lively) conversations! ☺ Essentially, all you do from buying an "adult beverage" or soda to participating in a fundraising auction or carrying a flag in one of our celebrations all help in what we are here for, and have been doing since the chartering of Post 5 in December 1919.

Some folks have said, *I really don't do much, I only come during this event or that* - believe me, any event even with a small contribution of support goes a long way.

You know the saying - "Many hands make light work"; and for any participation I am extremely grateful. Your efforts assist us in service to our veterans and the community.



ALR Update....

By Bobby Dunno



"The director is too busy riding and travelling to be writing while the sun is shining. So, everyone else needs to "Get On Your Bikes And Ride!"

.....**from the Commander:** No problem Bobby, you do enough for all of us! You deserve the time off with the family!!! And don't worry, the ALR Dessert Auctions are still "happening" thanks to some amazing baking by Pinky Bleth!!!!



As many of you know we are one of the few American Legion in the state that has their own cemetery and we are also fortunate we have a few dedicated people keeping things organized for all of us. It is a lot of work maintain the grounds to include all the mowing, weed-whacking, fertilizing, racking, as well as maintaining and placing the headstones when we have an American Legion Family member or eligible veteran buried in "Post Everlasting."

One such transfer to "Post Everlasting" is Dennis Bunn, the father of Auxiliary member April Bunn, he was a joyful and friendly part of our post for over 10 years - he'll be missed by all.

Over the years we've had many people take on the care of this valued part of our organization. More recent caretakers included



Terry Pollard and John Christensen who were instrumental in the care of the grounds as well as helping to identify those in unnamed graves for the periods that no formal records were kept. Also, another huge help in identifying and tracking who was placed where was former Unit #5 Auxiliary President Heather Stone, a long time Seward resident now back home in Seldovia. Heather was amazingly valuable in helping us piece together those people who we were having a tough time finding where they were resting.



And now, we have another member David Osborn who has risen to the challenge for several years and has done a fabulous job out at the cemetery maintaining the grounds which is no easy feat. Thanks to all for your dedication and service, it is very much appreciated, and our Post Everlasting would not be in such great shape without your dedication and care! Oh, and we are working on a grant to help us improve and help us care for this historic and cherished resting place for our members and our veterans. Wish us luck on getting it approved!!!! 😊

The efforts of those I just mention in the last paragraphs are just a few folks who are what we're made of at the Post 5 Family. We have several people who quietly contribute with no expectation for reward or recognition, but their service and friendship would be sorely missed if they were not here. We also would be, to coin the phrase, "in a hurt" if they weren't dutifully doing their thing in support of our American Legion Family.

THANK YOU!!!!



V-J Day (1945)

Victory over Japan Day (also known as **Victory in the Pacific Day**, **V-J Day**, or **V-P Day**) is a name chosen for the day on which the Surrender of Japan occurred, effectively ending World War II, and subsequent anniversaries of that event.

The term has been applied to both the day on which the initial announcement of Japan's surrender was made in the afternoon of August 15, 1945, in Japan, and because of time zone differences, to August 14, 1945, (when it was announced in the United States, Western Europe, the Americas, the Pacific Islands, and Australia/New Zealand), as well as to September 2, 1945, when the signing of the surrender document occurred.



August 15 is the official V-J Day for the UK while the official US commemoration is September 2. The name, V-J Day, had been selected by the Allies after they named V-E Day for the victory in Europe.

On September 2, 1945, a formal surrender ceremony was performed in Tokyo Bay, Japan aboard the battleship **USS Missouri**. In Japan, the day usually is known as the "memorial day for the end of the war"; the official name for the day, however, is "the day for mourning of war dead and praying for peace" this official name was adopted in 1982 by an ordinance issued by the Japanese government.



USS Missouri

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Wow, how time flies. July has blasted by us and August is here. Hard to believe the 4th was a month ago and the Salmon Derby is almost here.

I want to thank everyone who helped with the 4th of July preparation and activities. There are way too many names to mention everyone but some of the main players were Clare Sullivan, David "Ozzie" Osborn, Susie Martin, Kenny and Erin Munkelt (from New York) Larry and Patty Taylor, Bill and Lori Wolfe and a host of others who helped as they could. The Beer Garden was set up and operated safely and securely by Tom Sears, Dan Oliver, Al Dykstra, LaNno Settles and others. The Auxiliary Unit 5 also had many great volunteers as they had their soda floats, soft drinks, and ice cream for sale. Everyone did a great job and we all had fun in the beautiful sunshine.

We also had great volunteers for the 3rd Sunday of the Month Community Breakfast with Ozzie, Debbie VanTassel, Justin Olson, Tom Sears and Angel Schwertfager.

We held the Dennis Gallt memorial on July 21st. Tom Sears prepared and supervised the Firing Detail which consisted of David Osborn, Mike Mooter, and Al Dykstra. All four should



be commended for the great job they did in honoring Dennis. Our Post Chaplain was out of state but Ed Tuck performed those duties admirably. Thank you all for helping us honor the service of Dennis Gallt who was also a 39 year member of our post!

August is a bit quieter month when it comes to Post activities. The Auxiliary Unit 5 will be holding their Toys for Tots auction and dinner on the 11th and we will have our community breakfast on the 19th. The Silver Salmon Derby starts on the 11th and runs through the 19th.

The 2019 membership year has begun and many of you have already renewed your membership. Thank you for that. If you renew prior to the Early Bird Dinner, date TBD at the next Post meeting, you will be eligible to come to that dinner at the expense of the Post. Membership drives everything we do locally, statewide, and nationally. Renew your membership and support the mission of your Post. If you have membership questions do not hesitate to ask me or any of the other Post Officers.

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



July was busy but seemed to have flown by. Squadron members really stepped up and supported all the Post 5 activities. Now August has arrived, your help and support will be needed again.

The 4th of July was greeted with great weather and the Rib Feed and Beer garden for the Post were highly successful. I would like to thank Squadron 5 members David "Ozzie" Osborn, Bill Wolfe, and Kenny Munkelt for their great work in prepping for the 4th and working on that day. There was lots of good help but those three stood out.

Ozzie is also the driving force in keeping the cemetery looking great as he does a lot of the work himself and coordinates other volunteers to assist. Great job as usual.

August will be a bit quieter when it comes to Post activities, but the Auxiliary will be holding its Toys for Tots auction and fundraising dinner on August 11th and the Post's community breakfast will be on August 19th. Come and give a hand with these activities if you have the time and inclination.

2019 membership cards have arrived, so you can start renewing your memberships anytime. Early Bird renewal gets you a free dinner at the Post with that date TBD at the Post's August meeting.



Thank you again for all your hard work and support of the Post 5 Family mission of service to the veterans and other community members in Seward.

Thanks!

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.

From the President's Desk...

By Debbie Van Tassel



Summer is quickly passing by and I hope you have all had a chance to get out and enjoy some of our nice days we have had.

The Auxiliary big event of the summer is coming up on August 11th. We will be holding our annual fund raiser for our Toys for Tots program, Holiday Food baskets and scholarships. Each year we raise money to provide local children with a parade and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. The children get to ride on a fire truck in a parade around town and then come back to the Post where they each receive a gift from Santa. In past years we have hosted between 100-125 children. This is an event that they look forward to every year.



Some of the funds raised also are used to provide food baskets to needy families during the holiday season. The fundraiser is August 11th starting at 6PM for dinner with the silent and live auction starting at 7 PM. There will be some great items available so come down and do your Christmas shopping a little early and support a great community program. Also if you have any items you would like to donate for the Auction contact either Debbie or Angela. If there are Auxiliary members with some time to donate we could also use your help to set up and prepare for the evening. This is open to the public so please tell your friends and family.

Also, in August we will be starting the new membership year so please renew your membership. Membership dues are used at the National, State and local level to support all of the Auxiliary programs which are so important to allow us as Auxiliary members to fulfill our mission and vision statements:

Mission Statement - *In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.*

Vision Statement - *The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.*

As an added benefit if you renew early you can enjoy a great early bird dinner provided by the Post in Sept for all those who have renewed by that date.

I also need to give a big thank you to everyone who has volunteered and assisted with programs and events in July. The 4th of July was great- we had great weather and great turn out for the Post's BBQ ribs, the Beer garden and we sold a lot of root beer floats. Thank you to all those who helped make it a success. Also, thank you to Angela for hosting Bingo every Monday night. Thank you to Pinky Bleth for making all those wonderful desserts!



Monthly meeting is August 8 at 6 PM



Awesome Desserts for the ALR Legacy Fundraising Auctions
Compliments of Pinky!!!!

For God and Country!

U. S. Coast Guard History

Extract from www.coastguard.com

The U. S. Coast Guard is simultaneously and at all times an armed force and federal law enforcement agency dedicated to safety, security, and stewardship missions. We save lives. We protect the environment. We defend the homeland. We enforce Federal laws on the high seas, the nation's coastal waters and its inland waterways. We are unique in the Nation and the world.



The Coast Guard official history began on **4 August 1790** when the first Congress authorized the construction of ten vessels to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. Known variously through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the Revenue Marine and the Revenue Cutter Service, we expanded in size and responsibilities as the nation grew.

The service received its present name in 1915 under an act of Congress that merged the Revenue Cutter Service with the Life-Saving Service, thereby providing the nation with a single maritime service dedicated to saving life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws. The Coast Guard began to maintain the country's aids to maritime navigation, including operating the nation's lighthouses, when President Franklin Roosevelt ordered the transfer of the Lighthouse Service to the Coast Guard in 1939. In 1946 Congress permanently transferred the Commerce Department's Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation to the Coast Guard, thereby placing merchant marine licensing and merchant vessel safety under our purview.



The Coast Guard is one of the oldest organizations of the federal government and until Congress established the Navy Department in 1798 we served as the nation's only armed

force afloat. We protected the nation throughout our long history and served proudly in every one of the nation's conflicts. Our national defense responsibilities remain one of our most important functions even today. In times of peace we operate as part of the Department of Homeland Security, serving as the nation's front-line agency for enforcing the nation's laws at sea, protecting the marine environment and the nation's vast coastline and ports, and saving life. In times of war, or at the direction of the President, we serve under the Navy Department.



USCGC Cutter Mustang in Seward Harbor

Operation Desert Storm (1990)

Extracts from GlobalSecurity.org
[National Security Archive](http://NationalSecurityArchive)

On the morning of August 2, 1990 the mechanized infantry, armor, and tank units of the Iraqi Republican Guard invaded Kuwait and seized control of that country. The invasion triggered a United States response, Operation **DESERT SHIELD**, to deter any invasion of Kuwait's oil rich neighbor, Saudi Arabia. On **August 7, deployment of U.S. forces began.**



United Nations Security Council Resolutions 660 and 662 condemned Iraq's invasion and annexation and called for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces. On August 20 President Bush signed National Security Directive 45, "U.S. Policy in Response to the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait," outlining U.S. objectives - which included the "immediate, complete, and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait," and the "restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government to replace the puppet regime installed by Iraq."



F-15C Eagle of the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing; left side view, second day of the Air War at King Abdul Aziz Royal Saudi Air Base, Dhahran, Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia, 18 January 1991.



Patriot Missile ("Scud Buster") launcher

Saddam Hussein's rejection of diplomatic efforts to solve the crisis led to the decision to restore Kuwait's sovereignty by military force. The ensuing air war and the effects of the economic embargo decimated Iraq's military infrastructure, severed communication and supply lines, smashed weapons arsenals, and destroyed morale.



M1 tank, Desert Storm



Overall, the coalition air campaign accumulated a total of 109,876 sorties over the 43-day war, an average of 2,555 sorties per day. Of these, over 27,000 targeted Scuds, airfields, air defenses, electrical power, biological and chemical weapons, headquarters, intelligence assets, communications, the Iraqi army, and oil refining.

One can get some perspective on the scope of the Gulf air war by comparing it to some predecessors. The following table presents U.S. Army Air Forces, and U. S. Air Force bomb tonnage statistics extracted from various wars, compared with Air Force tonnage dropped in the Gulf War:

War	Tonnage	Length	Tonnage/Month
WW II	2,150,000	45 months	47,777.78
Korea	454,000	37 months	12,270.27
Vietnam	6,162,000	140 months	44,014.29
Gulf War	60,624	1.5 months	40,416.00

During **DESERT STORM**, the 10th ADA Brigade from Germany commanded a task force which included Dutch, US and Israeli Patriot batteries in defense of Tel Aviv and Haifa. ADA lieutenants were debriefed at the Israeli Defense Forces "Pentagon" after each Scud attack. Within twenty-nine hours of "wheels up" for the first aircraft, the TF 4-43 ADA was operational in Israel in two locations.

- TF 4-7 ADA (Patriot) deployed from Germany to Incirlik Turkey where they provided ADA protection to critical assets poised at Iraq's "back door".
- TF 2-43 ADA (Patriot) deployed from Germany & was attached to 11th ADA Brigade, providing Scud defense of King Khalid Military City in Saudi Arabia.
- TF 8-43 ADA (Patriot) deployed from Germany and provided general support to VII Corps.



After a 38-day air campaign, the **DESERT SABRE** ground

offensive began with allied forces sweeping through Iraqi defenses. The Iraqi army was crushed after a mere 100 hours. Iraqi troops--tired, hungry and war-weary from six months of economic blockade and more than a month of relentless allied bombing--surrendered by the thousands.



A U.N. ultimatum, Security Council Resolution 678, followed on November 29, 1990. It stipulated that if Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein did not remove his troops from Kuwait by January 15, 1991 a U.S.-led coalition was authorized to drive them out. Early in the morning of January 17, Baghdad time, the U.S.-led coalition launched air attacks against Iraqi targets. On February 24, coalition ground forces begin their attack. On February 27, Kuwait City was declared liberated, and with allied forces having driven well into Iraq, President Bush and his advisers decided to halt the war. A cease-fire took effect at 8:00 the following morning

Purple Heart Day - August 7, 2018

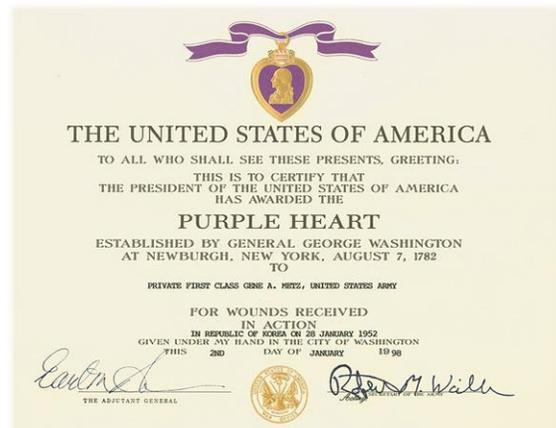


The **Purple Heart** is a United States military decoration awarded in the name of the President to those who have been wounded



or killed while serving on or after April 5, 1917 with the U.S. military. This award was open only to enlisted men and granted them the distinction of being permitted to

pass all guards and sentinels as could commissioned-officers. With its forerunner, the **Badge of Military Merit**, which took the form of a heart made of purple cloth, the Purple Heart is the oldest award that is still given to members of the U.S. military, the only earlier award being the obsolete Fidelity Medallion.



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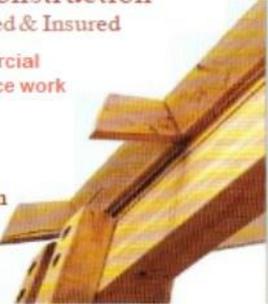
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August 2018


SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	Desert Storm	2	Steak Night
5	6	Mexican Martes	8	9	Steak Night	10
				ALR Meeting 7pm 		
12	13	Mexican Martes	V-J Day	15	16	Steak Night
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	<u>Luscious Leftovers</u> BINGO 6:30PM 	Purple Heart Day 	Auxiliary Meeting 6 pm 	SAL Meeting 7pm 		Toys for Tots Fundraiser Auction and Dinner 
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM 	Post Meeting 7pm 				Silver Salmon Derby
***** Silver Samon Derby ***** Silver Salmon Derby ***** Silver Salmon Derby ***** Silver Salmon Derby *****						
19	20	Mexican Martes	22	23	Steak Night	25
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u> 3 rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast Silver Salmon Derby	<u>Luscious Leftovers</u> BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 					
26	27	Mexican Martes	29	30	Steak Night	31
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM 					



Have Fun at the Silver Salmon Derby in Seward!!
 11-19 August 2018

Food Every Night at the Post!!!!

Food Every Night at the Post!!!!