Well November and Thanksgiving is in the bag and now Santa Claus is coming to Town! Looking back on November, the start of Flu Season, the official end of Motorcycle Season, I can say that it was not the best month for Commander Bobby! But that did not stop Post 5. Mike and our awesome group of volunteers in their usual outstanding manner continued on … Ops Normal. Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day Dinner complete with food deliveries and Third Sunday Breakfast all delivered by an awesome group of volunteers forming a solid crew that given the right resources can accomplish almost anything.

The fact that so much has been done with little thank you or recognition just demonstrates the heart and service oriented attitude that is prevalent at Post 5. Thank You all for everything and then some.

Veterans Day was an awesome and humbling experience for many of us we first visited the Senior Center and conducted our annual Veterans Day Ceremony and it was well received by the many Veterans and their families that were in attendance. Clare Sullivan then led us to Mountain Haven where we visited several veterans who are staying in this very nice assisted living facility. There we were entertained by a few story’s from their often times colorful past. We then moved on to the Veteran Day activities scheduled at the Seward Elementary School the students and staff of Seward Elementary did an Outstanding Job of making the many Veterans who showed up feel welcome and engaged us in the many activities they had planned as a way of saying thank you for our service. Mr. Kingsland and the teachers Mrs. Fabian, Mrs. Flowers, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Beck, Mr. Leslie and Mrs. Pfeiffenberger and all their students had obviously put forth a lot of effort in organizing and planning and it paid off in a great tribute to the service of all of our Veterans from Seward. Any Veteran who did not attend the Seward Elementary Schools activities, you missed out and I would encourage you to attend next year.

Of course, the activities associated with the holidays are not quite over yet. Our group of wonderful ladies of Auxiliary Unit 5 are bringing Santa Claus and Mrs. Cringle into Seward for a special visit on the 10th of December. Lot of wonderful gifts for many of Seward’s Boys and Girls who also get to go on a ride with Santa courtesy of Seward Fire Department.

Along with Santa’s visit we also have our annual Operation Apple Pie where we will be seeking to send our Service Men and Women from Seward and Moose Pass a package from home. These care packages are well received and remind those who are serving far from home that they are not forgotten and their service is a treasured gift that we all are very lucky to receive every day.

With the advent of December we are also approaching the end of 2016 and faced with welcoming in the New Year 2017….ready or not. With the end of the year so also comes the ending of the 2016 membership year and the beginning of a new year for membership. Mike has done a great job of getting our membership renewals done and we are already above the 70% mark and everyone who has already renewed their membership gets a hardy pat on the back for keeping their membership up to date and demonstrating their support for all the American Legion stands for and the service oriented attitude we bring to our veterans and community.

Active membership, Volunteering and Involvement in Post and Community activities brings respect and feelings of pride in accomplishment. So please come down and see what’s happening, join in or spend a quite evening with friends, it’s all going on in and around Post 5. Merry Christmas and I hope everyone has a Joyous and Peaceful Holiday!
1st Vice Notes...

By Clare Sullivan

All the best to you and yours during this Christmas Season!

We’re in it now! We’ve just completed our community Thanksgiving meal last weekend at the post and it was once again a huge event of deliciousness! Thanks to the most committed crew who consistently makes it happen! These folks are without a doubt some of the most selfless people who take time out of their busy lives (even on the holidays) to help and serve others in our community.

One of the many roles of the post is to provide assistance, service and comradeship to veterans, their families and the community, as well as serve as an advisory source for information on the VA and other benefits found in the American Legion. The way we can help at this level is to be aware of what is going on in our community, identify where we can help, seek an active membership and promote involvement and volunteerism. We have a good crew in our Post 5 Family which is comprised of Post, Auxiliary and Sons, and so many of them are dedicated volunteers for us and our community. 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 2016, I want to thank all in our Post 5 Family and our community for an exceptionally good year of good deeds, good times, and good friendships. I look forward to another fantastic year of service and camaraderie! So 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. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

“For God and Country!”

Auxiliary Report....

By Michelle Swartz

It seems winter has arrived and temperatures are getting colder. Folks are gearing up for the Christmas holidays and kids are getting their lists ready for Santa.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making a stop here at American Legion Post 5 on Saturday December 10th. The event will begin at 11:00 am with kids loading onto the fire truck(s) for a parade through town and returning to the post. Santa and Mrs. Clause will meet with the kids and hand out gifts after the children return from the parade until about 1pm. There will be a special time set aside for children with special sensory needs to meet
If you know of local families in need of assistance with food for Christmas the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 5 has request forms available at City Hall and also at the American Legion Post for food vouchers. Completed request forms need to be returned to Legion. Additional information can be found on the request forms.

Our monthly business meeting will be December 14th and begins at 7pm. We would love to see you there.

Third Sunday of the month breakfast will be December 18th. As always, we have bingo every Monday evening. The doors open at 6pm and bingo begins at 6:30pm.

On Veterans Day – November 11th, I had the pleasure of assisting with the presentation at the Senior Center, visiting with our veterans at Mountain Haven and watching several presentations made by the elementary school children. One of which was the children singing all of the military service songs in the gym. That was really impressive!

As we are getting ready to close out the year and ring in a new one, I would like to take a moment to shout out a huge thank you to the officers and e-board members of Unit 5. You have done a tremendous amount of work and your efforts are very much appreciated.

**Fun Factoids**

On December 1st 1944 the Office of Air-Sea Rescue was set up in the Coast Guard - The Secretary of the Navy at the request of the Joint Chiefs of Staff established the Air-Sea Rescue Agency, an inter-department and inter-agency body for the study and improvement of rescue work with the Commandant of the Coast Guard as head.


If you have questions or I can be of assistance please feel free to call me (Michelle Swartz) on my cell 491-1325. Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Sounding Off from the Sons....**

By Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Winter is closing in on us. Hope you are all staying warm and safe. Get ready, maybe we will actually have snow for Christmas!!

Thanks to everyone who took part in the Squadron 5 Firewood raffle. The winner was Kris Erchinger. Congratulations Kris!!

Our Squadron members continued to show their support of the Post and the community of Seward last month. They volunteered for Veterans Day, our community breakfast, and Thanksgiving Day. Your support and assistance help the Post 5 family continue to serve the veterans and community of Seward.

**Post Events!!!!!**

In December, the Post will host the Auxiliary Unit 5 Christmas with Santa on Dec 10th, will host the USCGC Mustang crew and families for dinner and their Christmas party on Dec 15th, will host the Seward Coast Guard Auxiliary Change of Watch and dinner on Dec 17th, community breakfast on Dec 18th, and of course the Christmas meal on Dec 25th, then New Year's Eve on Dec 31st. Busy month so we will need to, again, step up and give the Post our help. Be sure and let me know if you can provide time and effort for any of these functions.

The new membership year is in full swing. The SAL Dues for 2017 have increased to $30.00. I thank all of you who renewed early. Please consider renewing your membership if you have not done so already. Your continued support helps Squadron 5 with its mission of service to veterans and our children and youth programs.

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.
House & Vice Report....
By Mike Calhoon
Hello from the Second Vice/Club!

Looks like we might have snow for Christmas this year! Hope everyone is staying warm and safe.

November was busy for us at the Post and Club. We had a great Veterans Day dinner and live entertainment with Lulu Small.

What a good time that was. If you missed it we will have her back in January. Not often you can get a wonderful and free dinner and entertainment together.

Of course, we also had our free community breakfast and our free Thanksgiving meal. We delivered about 76 meals into the community and fed around 60-65 folks at the Post. What great food, company, and football all day.

Our volunteers really stepped up and made everything happen smoothly and efficiently. You are all wonderful and continued to show the spirit of giving that is such a big part of what the American Legion Family does. I will not try to name everyone because I will undoubtedly forget someone. Just know how grateful we are for all our volunteers and what you do for our veterans and the community of Seward.

This month we will have the Christmas Parade and day with Santa on Dec 10th, the USCGC Mustang dinner and Christmas party on Dec 15th, Coast Guard Auxiliary Change-of-Watch meeting and dinner on Dec 17th, community breakfast on Dec 18th, Christmas meal on Dec 25th, and New Year’s Eve on Dec 31st.

There will be lots to do and we will need lots of help. Please let us know if you can give of your time and effort for any of these activities.

We are fully into the new membership year. I thank all of you who have already renewed for 2017. You can renew at the Post, mail in your renewal, or go online to Legion.org and pay online. Dues for 2017 have increased to $60.00 due to an increase at the national level. If you have any questions on that please feel free to give me a call.

Joe Wooden of Anchorage was the winner of the Commercial Vacuum Sealer Raffle. Congratulations Joe and thank you to everyone who participated in that fundraiser.

Pool league is on Saturday night, Bingo is on Monday night, and Poker is on Sunday and Monday night.

For God and Country!!!

Bill of Rights Day
15 December 2016

Excerpt from www.bordc.org. The Bill of Rights does not exist because government officials wanted to protect the rights of the people of the United States. It exists because the people, who knew firsthand what it was like to live as colonists under a king, demanded it and refused to ratify the U.S. Constitution without a promise that it would contain a Declaration of Rights. George Mason, drafted Virginia’s Declaration of Rights, which had become part of that state’s constitution, and he mounted a campaign to add a similar statement of fundamental rights to the U.S. Constitution.

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.

In 1941, 150 years after the first 10 amendments were ratified, President Franklin Roosevelt declared December 15 "Bill of Rights Day."
On 20 December 89, only six weeks after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the United States conducted one of the shortest armed conflicts in American military history; it is also one of the most relevant to campaigns for military planners and historians as they anticipate conflicts in the 21st century.

Noriega had seized control of his country back in 1983 when he became head of the Panamanian National Guard. From this position of power, he was able to build up the military and manipulate elections so that the winning presidents would be his puppet leaders.

Corruption was widespread during Noriega’s rule, and he was able to use his power to imprison and sometimes kill any who opposed him. In 1987 a former officer of the Panamanian defense force publicly accused Noriega of cooperating with Colombian drug producers.

The US responded by imposing strict sanctions that took an extensive toll on the country. On December 15, 1989, the Panamanian legislature declared Noriega president and that the US and Panama were in a state of war.

Following the shooting of a U.S. Marine, President George Bush ordered Operation JUST CAUSE, an invasion consisting of over 25,000 soldiers. This was an extraordinarily complex operation, involving the deployment of thousands of personnel and equipment from distant military installations and striking almost two-dozen objectives within a 24-hour period of time. The surgical precision and decisive maneuver employed by these U.S. forces minimized casualties on both sides of the conflict and avoided excessive damage to Panamanian property.

The military was able to quickly achieve its goals as Noriega surrendered on January 3, 1990. He was taken to the US, tried, convicted and jailed on drug trafficking charges and is currently serving his 40-year sentence in Miami.

JUST CAUSE represented a bold new era in American military force projection: speed, mass, and precision, coupled with immediate public visibility, concern for collateral damage, and early anticipation of postcombat mandates.

The nearly 26,000 U.S. military personnel who participated in Operation JUST CAUSE; deployed with virtually no notice to Panama from home stations throughout the United States. The rapid deployment and the speed with which the conflict was resolved is a tribute to the training and leadership of these personnel, as is the compassion and effectiveness with which they assumed their postcombat roles. Lessons learned from this experience will undoubtedly prove useful in future military operations as well.

Pearl Harbor Day

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the American Army and Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy. The attack came as a surprise to the American Army and Navy and lead to great losses of life and equipment. More than 2,000 American citizens were killed and more than 1,000 were injured. We also lost a large proportion of battle ships and nearly 200 aircraft that were stationed in the Pacific region. More than 60 Japanese servicemen were killed, injured or captured. The Japanese Navy also lost five midget submarines and 29 aircraft.

The Japanese military hoped that the attack on Pearl Harbor would prevent the United States of America from increasing influence in the Pacific. However, the events in Pearl Harbor actually led to the escalation of World War II. The day after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan and so entered World War II. President Franklin Roosevelt in a speech to Congress stated that the bombing of Pearl Harbor was “a date which will live in infamy”. Shortly afterwards, Germany also declared war on the United States. In the months that followed the attack, the slogan "Remember Pearl Harbor" swept the United States and radio stations repeatedly played a song of the same name.

In 1991, which marked the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States Congress established the Pearl Harbor Commemorative Medal. This is also known as the Pearl Harbor Survivor’s Medal.
YOUR BUSINESS CARD SIZE AD HERE FOR ONLY $5 PER MONTH!

To advertise in this space call Clare Sullivan at 224-7662
Rates are $5 per month or $50 per year BUSINESS CARDS ONLY, PLEASE!

---

COMMUNICATIONS NORTH
MARINE ELECTRONICS SALES & SERVICE
WE SERVICE WHAT WE SELL
www.communicationnorth.com

SHERRY L. PERRY
204 NASH RD.
SEWARD, ALASKA 99664

---

Marathon Constructors Inspection Services
ICC Certified
Building Inspection Service
Donald A. Sutherland
HOME INSPECTOR LICENSE #116
11770 Seward Highway
P.O. Box 1852
Seward, Alaska 99664
Phone: 907-224-5529
Cell: 907-362-1727
marconinspect@yahoo.com

---

Seward Insurance Agency
BUSINESS AND PERSONAL INSURANCE
Erick C. Amberg
Agent
PO Box 2100
Seward, AK 99664
(907) 224-7370 • Office
(907) 224-1330 • Fax
(907) 362-1388 • Cell
sewardinsurance@alaska.com
Locally owned & family operated

---

On Time Maintenance & Construction
General Contractor - Licensed, Bonded & Insured
Specializing in Residential and Commercial Construction and Maintenance. Insurance work welcome!

J. Mitchell McDevitt • Owner
907-362-1230 • OnTimeMC@yahoo.com
Offering Full-Scale Remodeling, Siding, Replacement Windows and Doors, Garage Shops, Decks, Roofing and Much More!

---

The Last Stitch
Po Box 1892  Seward, Alaska 99664
(907)362-2009 or (907)362-1685
Sharon Dillon or Connie Kullander
Thelaststitch16@yahoo.com

Open 8:00 AM to 4:00PM
Custom Embroidery, Screen Printing, Alterations

---

Metco
David Dieckgraef
Vice President
GENERAL CONTRACTOR • EXCAVATION
CONCRETE READY-MIX • SAND • GRAVEL
2701 Seward Highway (907)224-3151 Office
Seward, Alaska 99664 (907)224-3514 Fax
License # 5735

---

The Hutch Bed & Breakfast
George C. Anderson
President & Bell-Hop
Mile 48.5 Sterling Hwy
P.O. Box 649
Cooper Landing, Alaska 99572

Smoke free rooms with private baths and much more.
(907) 595-1270
Fax 595-1829
E-mail: Hutch@arctic.net
http://www.arctic.net/~hutch

---

Merry Christmas