



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

December 2017
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American Legion Seward Post 5
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Bobby Dunno



So here we are saying goodbye to November and yet hello to the Holiday Season. We are done with Thanksgiving and the awesome group of volunteers at Post 5 did their usual outstanding job putting out the largest turkey dinner town. Now we can look forward to Santa Claus is coming to Town! Veterans Day was a good day also, a couple of us had lunch with the Veterans up at Mountain Haven and then we joined the crew of the CGC MUSTANG and a few members from the CGC Healy at Seward Elementary school, for their Veterans Day celebration. Once again I find myself in awe of our volunteers from American Legion Family as they continue to serve getting little thanks or recognition yet continue to demonstrate the heart and service oriented attitude that is prevalent at Post 5. Thank You all for everything and then some.

Of course, the holidays are just getting started. Our group of wonderful ladies of Auxiliary Unit 5 are bringing Santa Claus and Mrs. Cringle into Seward for a special visit on the 16th of December.



Lot of wonderful gifts for many of Seward's Boys and Girls who will also get the traditional ride on a Fire Truck 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. So, if you know of a person from the Seward area that is far away serving in the Armed Forces please bring them to our attention, they deserve to be recognized for their service and a box from home is a great way to demonstrate they are always in our thoughts.



With the advent of December, we are also approaching the end of 2017 and faced with welcoming in the New Year 2018...can anyone believe how fast 2017 went. With the end of the year so also comes the ending of one membership year and the beginning of a new year for membership.

Join or Renew Your Membership



Mike has done a great job of getting our membership renewals 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

Welcome to the Christmas Season!!!! We're in it now! We've just completed our community Thanksgiving meal at the post and it was once again a great showing of volunteerism this year! It was really nice to see some of the "regulars" and we were the beneficiaries of new folks who have stepped up to the plate to help our community! Thank you all so much, it was a lot of fun and we got a lot done and made many people's Thanksgiving all that much better! Thank you!! I couldn't be happier that Seward has a wonderful group of selfless folks who are willing to take time out of their busy lives to help and serve others in our community. Thanks guys! You rock!



We fed significantly more people this year than in previous years, and delivered more meals than in the past as well. I think all your efforts made a lot of people's Thanksgiving memorable! You folks rose to the task to make it happen. It was a great time getting ready and serving our fellow veterans and local community members!

Okay, onto December, we all have quite a bit planned not only in our own lives and regular 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 as usual, so plan on a delicious meal. The Auxiliary has their annual

Christmas Parade with Santa and Mrs. Claus giving out gifts to our local Seward kids at the post, and we will be finishing making up and mailing out our "Operation Apple Pie" packages to our local Seward young men and women who are in the service. Interspersed with these events we have all our regular events as well as the annual dinner for the USCG Cutter Mustang where we can meet some of the new crew, thank all for their service, and have a warm holiday get together. We also have a few other local Christmas parties that are in the making! ☺

Speaking of the holidays, we'll be starting to get the post spiffed up for the season so come on by, see our progress. We like making the post a warm and inviting place for members to come and visit and have a good time.

As we head into December it also means we're coming to the end of the 2017 membership year and the start of the 2018 year. I appreciate all who have joined or renewed and that shows we're a stable post and that we're growing. 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 and educational benefits. Our collective voice speaks "volumes" and has significant influence on lawmakers and decision makers regarding military members earned compensation for injuries and disabilities sustained while in the military. In these years of budgetary constraints all agencies are competing for limited resources and the American Legion at the National level is fighting for all of us.



One of the many roles of any local American Legion post, and Post #5 is no different, we are here to provide service and comradeship to veterans, their families and the community. And how better to do this 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 and to continue to serve. The way we can help at this level is to be aware of what is going on in our community, seek an active membership, and promote involvement, help to others 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 2017, I want to thank all in our Post 5 Family and our community for a good year of good deeds and good times, and I look forward to another good 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 doing good deeds to helping others, especially your friends and neighbors.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Winter seems to be here but not with too much gusto. A little wind, rain, and snow. Must be in Seward.

November was pretty busy. We had another visit from the USCGC Healy and a visit from the USCGC Sycamore. We were able to host each crew for dinner and had a great time with them. We had dinner for our member and veterans on Veteran's Day. We catered dinner for the high school girl's volleyball team and of course we celebrated Thanksgiving with our usual great dinner.

I want to give a big thanks to all the great volunteers who continue to step up and support the Post 5 Family. You were all awesome and we could not have done any of this without you. Volunteers make it possible for a small post like ours to be so involved in our community.

This month we will have the Seward Coast Guard Auxiliary Change of Watch on the 9th, the Auxiliary Unit 5 Day with Santa on the 16th, our community breakfast on the 17th, and, of course, Christmas Dinner on the 25th and New Year's Eve on the 31st. If you can come and help with any of these activities, please contact us here at the Post.

I also want to thank all of you who have renewed your dues and would like to encourage those who have not to consider doing so. Membership drives the American Legion and all its programs. If you know a veteran in town who is not a member, invite them in and let them see all the things we do for our veterans and the community of Seward.

Pool, poker, and bingo are all going strong so come on in and enjoy some good food, drinks, and harassment from the bar staff.

Thanks again to all of you who continue to support your Post and Club. We look forward to seeing you all and please feel free to call if you have any questions or concerns.

Auxiliary Update...

By President Michelle Oliver



The Thanksgiving holiday is behind us and Christmas is rolling full steam ahead. With that in mind I have a few announcements to make.

Santa and his elves have asked us to help them wrap some gifts before he comes to visit the kids. Wrapping will be at

the Post in the downstairs meeting area starting at 5:30pm on Tuesday December 5th.

Christmas with Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on Saturday December 16th. Doors will open at 10:00am with refreshments, and there will be a fire truck parade beginning at 11:00am. Visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus will begin after the parade. Santa and Mrs. Claus have graciously agreed to stay a little longer and have a special session for those children that need a little more quiet and have sensory issues. Sensory Santa will begin at 1pm and go until 2pm.

Applications for food vouchers for the Christmas holidays are available at the Post and at the Senior Center only. These are open to families in need around the community and do not need to be members in order to apply. Applications MUST be turned in no later the Monday December 18th to be eligible. Recipients will be notified by phone and arrangements made for pickup.

Bingo is in full swing and open to the public. If you know someone who enjoys bingo, please pass the word and have them join us Monday nights (except Christmas, December 25th and New Year's Day, January 1st). Doors open at 6pm with bingo calling starting at 6:30.



On a sad note we lost Caroline Toloff, last month, one of our Auxiliary members who was also an avid bingo participant. Our hearts and prayers go out to her family during the holiday season.

Third Sunday of the month breakfast will be December 17th downstairs at the post starting at 9am. Volunteers are always graciously accepted.

I would like to thank all the Auxiliary members that have stepped up to help throughout this last year. There are quite a few that show up and help time and time again. So, if you see someone in the kitchen, the bingo hall, third Sunday of the month breakfast or any of the other numerous events that they volunteer for, please take a moment to thank them, for they are the glue that holds these events together. Have a wonderful holiday!





"Operation Just Cause"
20 December 1989

Excerpt parts from US Army Center for Military History

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.



President Bush Announcing 1989 Invasion

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..



Sounding out from the Sons...
By 1st Vice Mike Calhoon



Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

Hello Winter. Winter is here but has been taking it easy on us.

I want to thank the SAL Squadron 5 members who assisted the Post last month. You were involved in visits from the USCGC Healy and USCGC Sycamore, Veteran's Day, the community breakfast, and Thanksgiving. Or Squadron members are a big asset to the Post 5 Family and all the activities we are involved in.

This month we will have the Auxiliary Unit 5 Day with Santa on the 16th, the community breakfast on the 17th, Christmas on the 25th, and New Year's on the 31st. Please let us know if you can come and help with any of the activities.

Remember that membership renewal time is here. I thank those who have already renewed and encourage those who have not to consider doing so. Membership drives the train for the S.A.L. and all of its programs locally and nationally.

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.

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.

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 led 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 had hoped that the attack on Pearl Harbor would prevent the United States of America from increasing her 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 and can be awarded to any veteran of the

United States military who were present in or around Pearl Harbor during the attack by the Japanese military. The medal can be awarded to civilians, who were killed or injured in the attack.

End of Operation Iraqi Freedom

Excerpt from Congressional Research Service and Conservapedia

On December 15, 2011, U.S. Armed Forces in Baghdad marked the official end of the war in Iraq. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other top U.S. military leaders observed the official end of U.S. Forces Iraq's

mission after years of conflict that claimed the lives of more than 4,500 U.S. troops.

Operation Iraqi Freedom was the largest of several active fronts in the ongoing War on Terrorism. Other fronts included Afghanistan, Philippines, and the Horn of Africa. Operation Iraqi Freedom began on 3 March 2003 with the removal of the Ba'athist regime of Saddam Hussein by a "Coalition of the Willing" led by the United States and allies including the United Kingdom.

An interim government, Constitutional Assembly, and later an elected Parliament and Executive have assumed authority, however sectarian insurgent violence has hindered stability and reconstruction efforts by US contractors and the new government.



Iraq's post war constitution strictly limited the emergency powers of the Executive in dealing with civil strife--a post Saddam democratic reform. "10 Years After the Invasion 40 per cent of Iraqi have a job and a quarter of families live below the World Bank's poverty line; Some in the younger generation of Iraqis who survived the years of violence see the decade of the US occupation as a requiem for their dream; education system is one of the things worst damaged by the war in Iraq, health and infrastructure are also on that list."



Iraq has been ravaged in recent years by cycles of warfare, a growing refugee crisis, crippling sectarianism, and the violent spread of the self-styled Islamic State extremist movement (also known as ISIS, ISIL or by its Arabic acronym, Daesh). In the past decade, Iraqis have made some progress in building their government—approving a constitution to replace that of the Saddam Hussein era, and holding successive elections for parliament and provincial governments. Still, governing institutions remain weak, and corruption and poverty endemic. The ISIS threat and rising violence compelled U.S. military advisors to return to the country in 2014, after having withdrawn in 2011. The continued weakness of governance in Iraq—along with ISIS' seizure of much of northwestern Iraq and adjacent parts of Syria, and its recruitment of young Muslims worldwide—poses a long-term challenge to stability in the region and globally.

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Bill of Rights Day

15 December 2017

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.



December



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Steak Night 1	2
<p>Merry Christmas</p>					KARAOKE 7PM	Pool League
3	4	Mexican Martes 5	6	7	Steak Night 8	9
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM Luscious Leftovers	OMAHA POKER 6PM Luscious Leftovers BINGO 6:30PM		Guest Chef Night 	Pearl Harbor Day 	KARAOKE 7PM 	Pool League Coast Guard Auxiliary Change of Watch
10	11	Mexican Martes 12	13	14	Steak Night 15	16
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM Luscious Leftovers	BINGO!!! 6:30PM OMAHA POKER 6PM Luscious Leftovers 	Post Meeting 7pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 7pm Guest Chef Night	SAL Meeting 7pm 	KARAOKE 7PM 	Pool League Santa at the Post
17	18	Mexican Martes 19	20	21	Steak Night 22	23
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM Luscious Leftovers 3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast	OMAHA POKER 6PM Luscious Leftovers BINGO!!!! 6:30PM		Guest Chef Night 		KARAOKE 7PM 	Pool League
24	25	26	27	28	Steak Night 29	30
"Texas Hold 'em" 6PM Luscious Leftovers	Merry Christmas 	Christmas Leftovers 	Guest Chef Night 		KARAOKE 7PM 	Pool League
New Years Eve! 31						
 Happy New Year!!!						