Happy Holidays! We’ve just completed our community Thanksgiving meal at the post and it was once again a huge event of deliciousness! Thanks to the crew who consistently makes it happen, we even had some new faces so thank you very much! I am always so impressed that these selfless people take time out of their busy lives to help and serve others in our community. Thanks guys! You rock!

We had many more folks come to the post to celebrate with us and we had the opportunity to deliver some yummy meals to folks who were working or are not able to get out and spend time with family and friends. We hope we were able to make these folks’ Thanksgiving a bit warmer and more comforting. Our volunteer cooks and bakers really rose to meet the mission to make it happen. It was a great time serving our fellow veterans and local community!

On the 8th of November the Seward Elementary School had an amazing tribute to veterans at the school. There were refreshments for the veterans and an excellent showing of some young vocals as they sang patriot songs and the military service songs in honor of our veterans.

On Veteran’s Day Post 5 also held a ceremony at the Senior Center. We had a good representation by our post members and we had an excellent ceremony with shared stories of our unique military backgrounds in the well attended luncheon. I’d like to thank the Seward Senior Center for hosting us at this event, it was a fun time for all! We look forward to more events to share!

Okay, onto December, we all have quite a bit planned not only in our lives and 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 big and 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 on December 14th, 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! ☺

Another event in December is the National Guard Birthday which falls on Friday December 13th. Since the Global War on Terrorism began the National Guard has been an integral part of this effort to combat terrorism throughout the world; as a matter of fact about 45% or the forces sent to Iraq and Afghanistan have been from the National Guard. Our citizen soldiers are on the front lines just as the regular military forces and they have been fighting side by side to protect us across the globe.

An interesting item to take note of is the National Guard is the oldest military organization in America and was established in 1636. These dedicated citizen soldiers leave their jobs and families when called to serve, so on the 13th of December, take the time to thank and honor our National Guard, many of whom live and work right here in our community.

December is even more an important month for Post 5 as we will hit our 100th anniversary! We’ve been “chartered” as a post since December 31st, 1919!!! What a record and what a past with some amazing legionnaires contributing to our community and our veterans. Stay tuned for announcements for our celebration, but I can tell you this, the post will be having an Open House on December 31st and all are welcome!!!

Speaking of the holidays, we’re starting to get the post spiffied 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, celebrate the holidays and have a good time in a friendly place.
I'd like to sincerely thank the crew of the USCGC Mustang who have consistently supported our post this year and in the recent years' past. They are and have been a great asset supporting the post for projects around the “post home” which needed strong backs and energy☺ but more importantly they have been there, even with their busy schedules for our parades, memorials and services. They have been there for our veterans who have answered the final call to “Post Everlasting.”

They have also worked with the Alaska National Guard's Honor Guard in these ceremonies which shows their maturity and willingness to take time out of their busy lives to help the community where they currently serve.

These fine young service members understand the notion of “service.” They have demonstrated that time and again; and have willingly (and enthusiastically) participated in our post activities and volunteer in our community service organizations in town that keep us all healthy and safe. I couldn’t be more proud when I see these young folks and their families do here in Seward, whether performing their official functions of rescue and law enforcement on the seas or spending their free time in town as part of our community. Thanks again Mustang - know you are so very appreciated and we’re thrilled you are a member of our veteran family!

As we head into December it also means we're coming to the end of the 2019 membership year and the start of the 2020 year. I appreciate all who have joined or renewed and that shows we're a stable and growing post. 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, rehabilitative and educational benefits. These collective voices from over 12,000 posts nationally speak "volumes" and have influence on lawmakers and decision makers regarding military members earned compensation for injuries and disabilities sustained while in the military. After all, one of the many roles of the American Legion posts is to provide service and comradeship to veterans, their families and the community. And how better done 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. The way we can help at this level is to be aware of what is going on in our community, helping others, promote involvement 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 2019, 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 as we embark on our second century of service! Soooo, 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!

House and Vice Report…….
By Mike Calhoon

Hello from the 2nd Vice!!!!

The Christmas season is upon us and it is a busy time at Post 5.

I want to thank everyone who gave their time, effort, and in some cases, money in support of the Post 5 Family activities during the month of November. We had the Marathon Wrestling Club fundraiser, Veterans Day, our community breakfast, food prep for the girls' volleyball team, a dinner for the crew of the USCGC Mustang, and the great Thanksgiving dinner. Not much time to congratulate ourselves for a job well done as December will be equally busy and we will need your help again.

This month we will be hosting the crew of the USCGC Mustang for their annual Christmas dinner/party on December 5th. On December 14th Auxiliary Unit 5 will be holding their Christmas Parade and Gift Giving with Santa and we will be hosting the Seward Coast Guard Auxiliary for their Change of Watch ceremony and dinner. December 15th is the community breakfast. Of course December 25th is our Christmas Meal and on New Year's Eve we will have an Open House at the Post so the community can come through and see what we've been up to for 100 years. Lots to do so get your volunteer hats on and we will gladly put you to work.

Con't next page
Membership is the cornerstone of our organization and we need to continue to strive to be a strong and active part of the Post 5 Family. You can renew at the Post, mail in your renewals, or go online to MyLegion.org and renew.

Bingo is going strong on Mondays at 6:30 and we have food every night. Pool league is on Saturday night at 7:00pm when no other function is scheduled.

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.

For God and Country

Sounding Off from the Sons....

By Mike Calhoon

Greetings from the SAL First Vice Commander.

November sure flew by. Here comes the Christmas season and the Post 5 100th Anniversary on New Year's Eve.

I want to thank everyone who stepped up and helped with all the functions this last month. Your continued support of the Post 5 Family activities are crucial to the success of the organization as a whole. Keep up the good work.

This month’s activities are packed:

❖ the Post will host the crew of the USCGC Mustang for their annual Christmas dinner/party on Dec 5th;
❖ December 14th will be busy with the Auxiliary Unit 5 Christmas Parade and gift giving with Santa and;
❖ The Coast Guard Auxiliary Change of Watch and dinner;
❖ December 15th will be the third Sunday of the Month Community Breakfast. And, of course;
❖ December 25th will be the community Christmas meal;
❖ December 31st will be the Post 5 100th Anniversary Open House and celebration with music that night.

As you can see there are many opportunities for Squadron 5 members to support the Post 5 Family and in turn support the veterans and the community of Seward.

The new membership year for 2020 is here so think about renewing your membership if you have not already done so. Membership is the cornerstone of our organization and we need to continue to strive to be a strong and active part of the Post 5 family.

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.

Bill of Rights Day

15 December 2019

As we celebrate the 228th anniversary of the Bill of Rights on December 15th. Bill of Rights Day we should look back at the origins and history of that day.

On December 15th 1791, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, later identified as the Bill of Rights, were ratified. James Madison was one of the original framers of the U.S. Constitution and studied the deficiencies in the U.S. Constitution authored many of these amendments. Some of these amendments protect our most fundamental rights - freedom of speech, the freedom of protest and assembly and conscience, right to bear arms, freedom from search without warrant, the right to an attorney, the right not to testify against yourself and guarantees equal protection under the law.

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.

Madison’s amendments were originally designed to extend the protection of some of the Bill of Rights to the states, however the amendments that were finally submitted for ratification applied only to the federal government. It wasn’t until the 1860s that state governments benefitted, following ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment (equal protection under the law). Since the early 20th century both federal and state courts have used the Fourteenth Amendment to apply portions of the Bill of Rights to state and local governments.
In 1941, 150 years after the first 10 amendments were ratified, President Franklin Roosevelt declared December 15 "Bill of Rights Day."

From the President’s Desk
By Debbie VanTassel

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving! And are ready for a busy December at the Post. Thank you to all the volunteers who came to help with the Thanksgiving Day dinner at the Post. This program is always a huge success and it is because of our wonderful volunteers who donate their time to make it happen. Volunteers are the base of all of our programs and Thanksgiving is a time to say thank you to them for all the hours they put in during the year.

Speaking of volunteer opportunities... December 14th we will again host the Firetruck Parade with Santa and Mrs. Claus as part of our Toys for Tots program. The parade begins at 1100 am so we will need help setting up about 0930. Santa will need helpers to serve hot chocolate and snacks to the children and families as they wait to meet Santa. Santa will also need Elves to help hand out gifts so if you have time on the 14th come on down and help Santa make it a special day for many children. On December 7th we will need help wrapping all the presents that Santa is going to hand out - 2PM at the Post. Also, that weekend we will need help decorating the Post for Christmas.

This year the Auxiliary is doing Holiday food baskets for those families that need assistance during the holiday season. Applications are available at the Post and the deadline for submitting is December 1st. If you know of a family that would benefit please let them know about the program.

Again the Post will be hosting Christmas Dinner on December 25th. Just like Thanksgiving the Post will need volunteers to help prepare the dinner and deliver it to those who request it.

As you enjoy the holiday season with all its activities, please remember our Military service members and Veterans who will not be home for the Holidays. The Post always does an Operation Apple Pie where it sends care packages to local service members who will not be home for the holidays. If you know of any local deployed military personnel please let the Post know so they can get them on the list to send a package to them.

Mid year reports are due to the Department of Alaska on December 5th. This is our opportunity to let the Department know all the activities and volunteer hours our Unit contributes to the ALA programs. It is so important for members to track and report their hours when requested. Please track your hours and volunteer service - we will submit year end reports in April.

At the December meeting we will name a nomination committee to nominate Unit officers for the next year with first call for nominations in January. If you are interested in being a Unit officer please let us know.

Hope you all have a Happy Holiday Season

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 U.S. from increasing her influence in the Pacific. However, the events in Pearl Harbor actually led to the escalation of World War II. The day following the attack, the U.S. declared war on Japan and so entered WWII. President 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 U.S.

In the months that followed the attack, the slogan “Remember Pearl Harbor” swept the U.S. 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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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.
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MERRY CHRISTMAS
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**Food Served Every Night at the Post**