



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

July 2018
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American Legion Seward Post 5
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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Summer is here, and June was a nice reprieve from the rains of May; we've been enjoying some great weather and it looks to be promising for the 4th and all the activities going on in Seward on that day!!!!

The post is looking good for our out of town visitors and we're pressing on with what we can do to keep our post home in good shape in spite of the few setbacks we had with the break-in and theft. They can't keep us down, we've been a post for nearly a 100 years serving our veterans and this community - and a few bad apples won't win!!!!

Well here we are poised for another big event in Seward - the 4th of July! As you know we will be participating in the town's parade with members from the Post, Sons, Auxiliary, Riders, and the crew of the Mustang helping us out - and looking impressive in our town's celebration of our Nation's independence. We, as a post, are fortunate to have the Mustang crew and their families as a part of our American Legion Family. It is good for all and allows us to show the "new" veterans what we are all about and how we continue to serve even though we're not in our service uniforms anymore.



Now that we're in the prep mode for the special day, we are in "mission mode" in preparation of our "world famous" Seward Post 5 BBQ ribs, baked beans and cole slaw. This preparation is no small undertaking; at last notification it looks like we have well over 325 pounds of yummy ribs and we are making all the "fixin's" to go along with the ribs as well! It should be a good 4th overall, so stop by.

With the onset of July, we are entering a **new membership year**. Be sure to check your mail for your membership renewal or stop by the post and renew and bring a friend. As you know we do a lot in our community and we can only do what we do to help veterans and the community with a strong membership and support. We don't generally toot our own horn, but we do a lot and you can see what we do on Facebook and our webpage. Also, talk to one of our members who are active in the post with our American Legion Family, it is a great sense of community at Post 5 and we truly reflect the heart and soul of this community.

If you ever need to know the criteria for membership here it is for reference. A veteran simply needed to have served honorably during one of these time periods:

- April 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918 (World War I)
- Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946 (World War II)
- June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955 (Korean War)
- Feb. 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War)
- Aug. 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon / Grenada)
- Dec. 20, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1990 (Panama)
- Aug. 2, 1990 to today (Gulf War / War On Terrorism)

We've been very fortunate with the crew that have stepped up to help during our events and it shows how much talent and "heart" so many of our members have to support our organization, our members, our veterans and community. I guess that is why we migrate to organizations such as the American Legion that bring service minded people to one place. You all make us what we are in our American Legion Family and it is incredible that all of us with diverse backgrounds and skills make us what we are in service. It really is amazing when you really think about it!!!!

As with most months June was another busy month but our amazing volunteers made it happen, whether it was Flag Day Ceremonies, the Army Birthday, Fathers' Day Breakfast or the usual activities, the folks who make this place a success were there and "getting it done!" I can't say enough about what you do and what you mean to so many in this community (veteran or not). We are oftentimes referred to as the center point of the community for assistance and "community" as we truly are a well-represented array of what makes up this incredible City of Seward!



Again, I want to thank all who have helped us in our events and our day to day operations. Your dedication has allowed us to continue to serve our community and our veterans.

"See you at the Post!"

House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

Summer is here. June zipped on by and July is upon us. Get ready for the onslaught and volunteer opportunities.

We had lots of great volunteers to help us with the Daniel Johnson memorial, to include the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard providing the Military Honors. Our Service Officer, Tom Sears did a great job coordinating the honors and providing training for the firing detail and our Post Chaplain, Father Bill Hanrahan performed his duties with the highest standards in providing comfort for the family. We also performed our annual Flag Day ceremony and held our Father's Day breakfast. Thanks to everyone for their help and continued support of the Post 5 Family activities.



This month you will have more opportunities to help Post 5 as we cruise into the 4th of July and beyond. Always lots of help needed on the 4th plus we may have a small **beer garden** this year and we will have **live music on the 3rd and 4th**, so come help out and enjoy some great food, our BBQ Ribs, and great music by Chris Crane.

We will be continuing work on the Post building after the 4th is over and we also always need help at the cemetery. The grass grows fast when the weather is like this.

We are in the new **2019 Membership Year**. We will start issuing 2019 membership cards after the 4th of July celebration is over. Membership is the foundation for everything we do. A larger and active membership helps us plan more ways to assist our veterans and the community of Seward.

Poker is over for the summer, but bingo is going strong on Mondays at 6:30 so come on in and enjoy some good food and support the Auxiliary.

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.

June has come and gone and we are truly into the summer season. The great Squadron 5 volunteers truly came through in a big way as usual! Squadron 5 members continue to display the dedication and understanding of what is necessary to help fulfill the mission of the Post 5 Family.

The Post held a Memorial with military honors for Daniel Johnson. It was a well-attended event with the Navy and Coast Guard providing the Military Honors. We also assisted the Post with the Flag Day Ceremony and Father's Day breakfast. Thank you all for your help!!

In July the Post will need help with the 4th of July activities, with the community breakfast on July 15th, and continuing work on the building and the cemetery. David



Osborn is again doing a great job with maintaining our cemetery, along with the occasional assistance. He can always use more help so let us know if you would like to assist with the cemetery.

The 2018 membership year ended on June 30th, but you can still renew for 2018 and now for 2019. We will start issuing new cards right after the 4th of July. Membership drives everything we do. A strong Squadron membership makes the Post 5 Family that much more capable of serving our veterans and the community of Seward.

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.

THE AMERICAN LEGION **FAMILY**



From the President's Desk

By Debbie VanTassel

Wow- where did June go? It was a busy month (as usual).

Again, I want to thank all the volunteers who contribute countless hours to support our veterans, active military, community, youth and families. Without the volunteers we would not be able to do any of the projects and activities that we do.

In July we celebrate the 242nd "birthday" of our great nation on July 4th. Come down to the Post for their annual BBQ rib feed! Personally, I think it is the best meal in town. This year the Post is adding a beer garden and if the forecast holds true- calling for 77 degrees - I suspect the Beer Garden will be popular. The Auxiliary will be supporting this by selling root beer floats, soda and water. Come on down and support the Post and Auxiliary. Also if you have some time to donate....we will certainly appreciate the help.



With the 4th of July celebration I wanted to write about one of our nations' most valuable traditions- The Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was originally written in 1892 by an American Baptist minister and social activist, Francis Bellamy. The Pledge of Allegiance is a promise or oath of loyalty to the Republic of the United States of America.



It was first published in 1892, in an edition of the Boston-based children magazine called "Youth's Companion". On October 12, 1892, it was first used during Columbus Day celebrations. The proclamation made by President Benjamin Harrison and over 12 million children recited the Pledge of Allegiance that day, thereby beginning a school day ritual.

By reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, every American promises to be true to the United States of America. The freedom available will not be taken for granted and each American will remember the countless men, women and children who have given their lives through the centuries, so that they can live peacefully today. I hope everyone has a wonderful 4th of July and take just a few minutes to remember why it is a day of



celebration and what we are celebrating- not just the parades and the picnics and the BBQ ribs but the true celebration- the birth of our great nation 242 years ago and all the sacrifices that have been made by our citizens, especially the military and veterans, some who have paid the ultimate sacrifice -so that we have the freedoms we do today.

One last note- the Auxiliary is starting to plan for the annual Auxiliary fund raisers to support **Toys for Tots**, the food voucher program and other programs throughout the year. We are planning this for August (we have not confirmed a date yet) so stay tuned for more information. If you have items you would like to donate for the auction, they would be greatly appreciated and if you have time to donate to help make the auction a success we would appreciate the hours of assistance also.

Hope everyone has a safe 4th of July.



Riders Update....



This is the time of year that our riders are out and getting some miles under their tires, and lately it has been good weather to out and enjoying the Alaskan highways. Even with all the riding folks are doing, there has been good work being done for the Legacy Fund. Big thanks to Auxiliary member Katherine "Pinky" Bleth who made some amazing confections that helped raise a good chunk of change for the Legacy scholarship fund! Thanks Pinky, you are amazing with what you can create in the kitchen!!!!

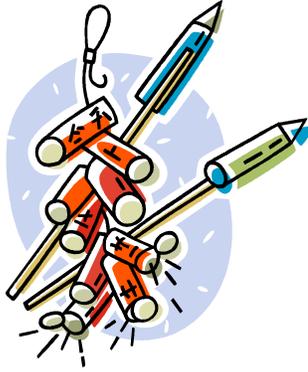
Director Bobby is on the road, unfortunately for him not on a bike but he and the "fam" are enjoying a motorhome excursion down to "the world." So I guess being on the road still counts.... Safe travels Director Bobby and we'll see you on your return, and who knows, there may still be some good riding weather!!!! 😊

Fourth of July Facts

When the holiday was declared a holiday. Although Independence Day is a legal holiday, it was not declared so until 1941. This was the date that signified the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

- The introduction of fireworks.

The 4th of July is synonymous with firework displays and are a staple in the celebration. How did they become so popular? Have they always been used? History shows that they were originally made in China and as early as the 11th century. This was during the time when the Chinese people used pyrotechnic mixtures for war rockets and explosives.



- **Uncle Sam.** The 4th of July facts surrounding the term "Uncle Sam" was finally clarified and popularized during the War of 1812. This is when the term originally appeared on supply containers that held war materials. The "Uncle Sam" symbol became synonymous with servitude and devotion, as in Uncle Sam wants YOU. Although there was heavy recruitment taking place, Congress did not adopt Uncle Sam as a national symbol until 1961.

- **Two Factoids.** Two very important but little known 4th of July facts show that 1) full support of the Declaration of Independence was not supported by all members of the Continental Congress and 2) a representative of Congress rode horseback 80 miles to reach Philadelphia and break a tie in support of independence.

- **The Liberty Bell.** Like the historical flag, the Liberty Bell was a very symbolic monument for Americans. However, the Liberty Bell has some 4th of July facts that many do not know about. Originally, there were two versions of the Liberty Bell. At the time of their manufacturing, one was found to be defective and had to be



melted and recast. The second bell was subsequently also found to be defective. It too had to be melted down and recast, therefore requiring a third version. Without any defective places, the third version of the Liberty Bell rang every Fourth of July from 1778 to 1835. According to history and tradition, as it rang, it cracked as it was being tolled for the death of Chief Justice John Marshall, the longest serving Chief Justice in the Supreme Court.

- **Our national poem.** A Wellesley College professor, Katharine Lee Bates, was the author of the patriotic poem "America the Beautiful" which was published on July 4, 1895.

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

- **Firsts.** Our country's first father, George Washington, held his first public office at the age of 17 and continued in public service until his death in 1799.



Facts such as these help to make our celebrating more meaningful and help to deepen our commitment to our country and in our service. As we celebrate Independence Day, we can find more reasons to be grateful for the country that we live in.

Declaration of Independence 1776

US Dept of State, Office of the Historian

By issuing the Declaration of Independence, adopted by the Continental Congress on **July 4, 1776**, the **13 American colonies severed their political connections to Great Britain**. The Declaration summarized the colonists' motivations for seeking their independence. By declaring themselves an independent nation, the American colonists were able to conclude an official alliance with the government of France and obtain French assistance in the war against Great Britain.



The Declaration of Independence

Throughout the 1760s and early 1770s, the North American colonists found themselves increasingly at odds with British imperial policies regarding taxation and frontier policy. When repeated protests failed to influence British policies, and instead resulted in the closing of the port of Boston and the declaration of martial law in Massachusetts, the colonial governments sent delegates to a Continental Congress to coordinate a colonial boycott of British goods. When fighting broke out between American colonists and British forces in Massachusetts, Continental Congress worked with local groups, originally intended to enforce the boycott, to coordinate resistance against the British. British officials throughout the colonies increasingly found their authority challenged by informal local governments, although loyalist sentiment remained strong in some areas.

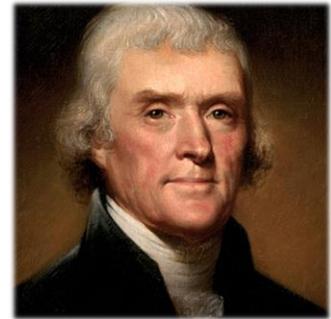
Despite these changes, colonial leaders hoped to reconcile with the British Government, and all but the most radical members of Congress were unwilling to declare independence. However, in late 1775, Benjamin Franklin, then a member of the Secret Committee of Correspondence, hinted to French agents and other European sympathizers that the colonies were increasingly leaning towards seeking independence. While perhaps true, Franklin also hoped to convince the French to supply the colonists with aid. Independence would be necessary, however, before French officials would consider the possibility of an alliance.

Throughout the winter of 1775-1776, the members of Continental Congress increasingly viewed reconciliation with Britain as unlikely, and independence the only course of action available to them. When on December 22, 1775, the British Parliament prohibited trade with the colonies, Congress responded in April of 1776 by opening colonial ports—this was a major step towards severing ties with Britain. The colonists

were aided by the January publication of Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense*, which advocated the colonies' independence and was widely distributed throughout the colonies. By February of 1776, colonial leaders were discussing the possibility of forming foreign alliances and began to draft the Model Treaty that would serve as a basis for the 1778 alliance with France. Leaders for the cause of independence wanted to make certain that they had sufficient congressional support before they would bring the issue to the vote. On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion in Congress to declare independence. Other members of Congress were amenable but thought some colonies not quite ready. However, Congress did form a committee to draft a declaration of independence and assigned this duty to Thomas Jefferson.



Thomas Paine



Thomas Jefferson

Benjamin Franklin and John Adams reviewed Jefferson's draft. They preserved its original form, but struck passages likely to meet with controversy or skepticism, most notably passages blaming King George III for the transatlantic slave trade and those blaming the British people rather than their government. The committee presented the final draft before Congress on June 28, and Congress adopted the final text of the Declaration of Independence on July 4.

The British Government did its best to dismiss the Declaration as a trivial document issued by disgruntled colonists. British officials commissioned propagandists to highlight the declaration's flaws and rebut the colonists' complaints. The Declaration divided British domestic opposition, as some American sympathizers thought the Declaration had gone too far, although in British-ruled Ireland it had many supporters. The Declaration's most important diplomatic effect was to allow for recognition of the United States by friendly foreign governments. The Sultan of Morocco mentioned American ships in a consular document in 1777, but Congress had to wait until the 1778 Treaty of Alliance with France for a formal recognition of U.S. independence. The Netherlands acknowledged U.S. independence in 1782. Although Spain joined the war against Great Britain in 1779, it did not recognize U.S. independence until the 1783 Treaty of Paris. Under the terms of the treaty, which ended the War of the American Revolution, Great Britain officially acknowledged the United States as a sovereign and independent nation.

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July 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6 Steak Night	7
	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Luscious Leftovers		 Happy 4th of July BBQ Ribs! Yummy	ALR Meeting 7pm 		
8	9	10 Mexican Martes	11	12	13 Steak Night	14
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	Luscious Leftovers BINGO BINGO 6:30PM	Post Meeting 7pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 7pm 	SAL Meeting 7pm 		
15	16	17 Mexican Martes	18	19	20 Steak Night	21
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u> 3 rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast! 	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Luscious Leftovers					Dennis Galt Memorial 
22	23	24 Mexican Martes	25	26	27 Steak Night	28
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	Luscious Leftovers  BINGO!!!! 6:30PM					Korean War Ends 1953
29	30	31 Mexican Martes				
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>		Food Every Night at the Post!!! Some really good "home" cooking!!! 😊			

