



# For God and Country

## Seward Post 5 Newsletter

July 2019  
Volume 16, Issue 07

American Legion Seward Post 5  
E-mail: [americanlegionpost5@gci.net](mailto:americanlegionpost5@gci.net)  
website: [www.americanlegionpost5.com](http://www.americanlegionpost5.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/americanlegionpostfive.sewardalaska](https://www.facebook.com/americanlegionpostfive.sewardalaska)

Phone: (907) 224-5440



### COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



Wow! We're in it now! Summer is here and we've been enjoying some great weather even with the haze from the Swan Lake fire. We're praying for relief for all those on the other side of the peninsula. It's contained but still moving.

We've been working hard at the post to beautify it for our members and our town with flowers and not to mention all the hard work out at the cemetery.

It really is coming along! Many Thanks to Stephanie Mackey and Sharon Dillon for all the help planting the flowers. Bill Casey and Dennis Bailey for their donations;



Bill, for the flower watering system and Dennis for the leaf and grass blower that will get a lot of use at the cemetery and keeping our headstones clear of leaves and dirt. I also must thank the guys at Spring Creek Correctional Center in "Echo Mod" for donating about 20 hanging baskets from their first year's foray into horticulture. You guys have made a lot of people happy with those and we'll be looking for these again next year! 😊 Speaking of the plants, I'd like to also like send a huge thank you to Carol Souza for the discount on the flowers for our post, we've got them all in the ground and are watching them grow!!

You all have done amazing in contributing to our post home. Whether you're working at the cemetery, setting up or cooking for events or nightly meals, or simply patronizing our club for a meal or an "adult beverage," I am extremely grateful and exceptionally humbled by all who have taken time out of your busy lives to contribute in whatever capacity to our post home and ultimately for our veterans and our community. Thank you for all you do!

Well, here we are poised for another big event in Seward the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 as always 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 of course in the preparation mode of our famous Seward Post 5 BBQ ribs, baked beans and coleslaw. This preparation is no small undertaking; at last I heard several hundred pounds of ribs have been ordered and we of course will be making all the "fixins" as well! It should be a good weekend so stop by. As I understand the Auxiliary will be soft drinks and water this year and given the weather looks to be very warm drinks will be in high demand!



With the onset of July, we are entering the 2020 membership year. Be sure to check your mail for your membership renewal or stop by the post and renew and please bring a friend, especially if you like what we do for our post members and our community. As you know we try to do a lot in town

and we can only do what we do to help veterans and the community with a strong membership and participation.

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)

**But there is more...**The good news is there is legislation that is being worked by our national representatives in the American Legion to modify these dates to incorporate many periods that previously have not been considered or included in the eligibility. Essentially if it passes through Congress then the service eligibility war periods would be April 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to the date of cessation of armed hostilities as determined by the U.S. government. That would open membership up for a lot of folks!!!

## 🎉 Membership Expansion!!! 🎉

The American Legion believes that membership in the organization should be extended to all U.S. military personnel who served on active duty during the hostile events that are not seen as a period of war.

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.

## From the Director

By Bobby Dunno



Wow! It is Riding Season and we have enjoyed some excellent riding weather. Bobby has a new front tire on the Victory, the Sun is shining, I finally passed my first 1000 miles for the summer and all is right with the world. Well, all except the persistent smoke and associated haze that comes with it.



July is bringing the opportunity to gain some more miles. Of course, we plan to ride while keeping a close watch on the latest wildfire reports, Smoke and reports of poor air quality has already canceled a ride up to Hope although some intrepid riders from Chapter 16 in Homer still seem nuts enough to try it anyway.



The ROMP is going to be a pretty informal affair, it is scheduled for the 18-21 July and the organizers have it centered on a place in Ninilchik called Goody2Shoes Dance Hall & Cabins small campground with cabins and campsites. Of course, there is also Post 18 in Ninilchik and it is likely that some of us from around the State will surely find ourselves there. After all their backyard is a RV Park, seems like a no-brainer☺. There is no registration or reservations but if you plan on attending contact Tim Campbell at Post 1 or leave a note on his Facebook page. The dates for the ROMP also coincide with the Salute to Vets Motorcycle Rally put on by the Southern Peninsula ABATE, the dates are 19-21 July and it will be in Sterling where there will be live music and bike games and the flyer says that Vets get in free on Saturday. Of course, as with everything at the time I write this, you have to wonder how the fire and smoke coming from the Sterling area will affect that weekend.

How many of our riders will be coming out for the **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade**? We are always looking for participants, so if you're a member of the ALR or a member of the American Legion Family with a motorcycle come on down and ride with us, show

off and maybe join the ALR come on out and join us to ride in the parade. There is always ribs and baked beans at the Post at the end of the parade route too, ya gotta love that.



But for now, the Sun is Shining so **Get On Your Bike and Ride!!**



## From the President's Desk...

By Debbie VanTassel

Well this is certainly going to be a summer to remember - as hot, dry and smoky! At least up to this point. Hope everyone is doing well in this heat and this is a good time remember to check on neighbors and friends to make sure they are doing well in this weather.

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 243<sup>rd</sup> "birthday" of our great nation on July 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 will again have a beer garden and if the forecast holds true- calling for 77 to 81degrees- I suspect the Beer Garden will be popular. The Auxiliary will be supporting this by selling cold 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.



As we celebrate Independence Day it offers us a time to reflect and remember all of those who have fought and died to give us the freedoms and Independence that we enjoy in this country. From our Founding Fathers up to our current active military and veterans, they have all fought to preserve these values that we treasure.

Hope you all have time to enjoy and celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup>.

## House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



The Post continues to be very busy despite the weather conditions. All our volunteers did a great job in June. Bill Casey donated a new watering system for the flower beds and Clare and Ozzie helped install that and it is working great. Ozzie, Clare, Debbie, and Dennis have kept the cemetery looking good. Al has been mowing around the Post and helping clean BBQ grills for steak night. Clare, Ozzie, Al, and Scott Wilde helped with the hot dog feed for the new bike park opening. Sharon, Michelle, Suzi, and Dan continue to provide great volunteer bartending service. Melody and her family worked hard at Father's Day breakfast and Ozzie helped with the breakfast for the Seward Seabird Festival. I know I have not mentioned everyone who has given time and effort at the Post and Club and I apologize to those I missed. Thank you all for your great help.

This month the big activity is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Rib Feed and weekend activities.

We will need lots of help prepping, serving, cleaning up and just generally helping out around the Post. Please let me know if you have time to give and we will put you to work.



We will have a beer garden for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. If you would like to help with that please see me or Tom Sears for the schedule and details.

The end of the 2019 membership year is here. I want to thank everyone who helped make this a successful year and look forward to a good 2020. You can begin to renew this month and can go online starting July 1<sup>st</sup> to renew. Membership is the backbone of our organization and we need to keep that backbone strong to continue to carry the load we do for our veterans and the community of Seward.

Bingo is going strong on Mondays at 6:30 and we have food every night.

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



There are a lot of things we might like hot and smoky but the weather is not one of them. Unusual start to the summer but hopefully we will all survive.

Squadron 5 members continue to support all the functions and activities of the Post. Squadron members helped install the new watering system for the flower beds, mowed around the Post and helping clean the BBQ grills for steak night, helped prep ribs for the 4<sup>th</sup>, helped at the hot dog feed for the new bike park, continue to lead maintenance of the cemetery, and just generally help when and where needed. Great job guys!!



This month the main assistance will be with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities, the community breakfast and the other general maintenance items for the Post and cemetery.



The new membership year for 2020 is here but it is not too late to renew for 2019. I thank all those who have renewed their memberships and ask everyone else to consider doing 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.



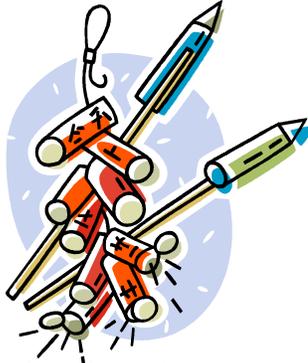
If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 224-5440. Thanks again for all your support of the Post 5 family and I look forward to seeing you all around the Post.

## Fourth of July Facts

When the holiday was declared a holiday and 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. We use them for a fine celebration of the end the war of independence and end of Great Britain's control on the "colonies."



- **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 Facts.** 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.

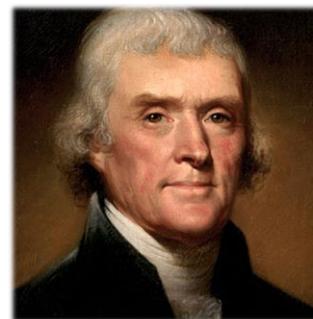
Despite these changes, colonial leaders hoped to reconcile with the British Government, and all but the most radical members of Congress were unwilling to declare independence. However, in late 1775, Benjamin Franklin, then a member of the Secret Committee of Correspondence, hinted to French agents and 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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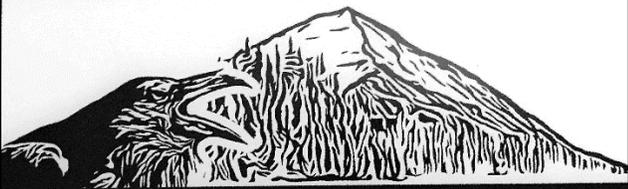
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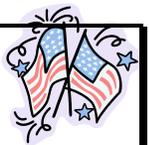
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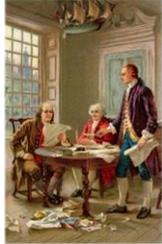
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Sam Clemons-Owner/Jewelry Artist



# July 2019



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Mexican Martes 2		3 Independence Day 4	5 Steak Night	6
	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs			 Happy 4th of July BBQ Ribs! Yummy Beer Garden and Music by Chris Crain		
7	8	9 Mexican Martes 9	10	11	12 Steak Night	13
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	Chili Dogs  BINGO 6:30PM 	Post Meeting 7pm 	Auxiliary Meeting 6pm 	SAL Meeting 7pm 		
14	15	16 Mexican Martes 16	17	18	19 Steak Night	20
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs			 ALR Meeting 7pm		
21	22	23 Mexican Martes 23	24	25	26 Steak Night	27
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month Breakfast  <u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	Chili Dogs  BINGO!!!! 6:30PM 				 <small>© Can/Stock Photo: cap1082143</small>	<u>Korean War Ends 1953</u> 
28	29	30 Mexican Martes 30	31			29
<u>Luscious Leftovers</u>	BINGO!!! 6:30PM  Chili Dogs					



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!  
UNITED STATES



Food Every Night at the Post!!!