



For God and Country

Seward Post 5 Newsletter

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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

By Clare Sullivan



We had an excellent June with our Flag Day celebration, the Army Birthday, Father's Day Breakfast and the ALR ROMP! You guys were amazing "getting it done!" 🥰❤️❤️😊

Wow! What a Summer it has been so far, and it has been amazingly sunny and at times too hot! Let's hope for some rain soon, and a good day for the runners on the Mount Marathon Race!

Although we got a bit of a late start this year with all the snow we had this winter, we made up for it in May and June with all the sun and heat! Besides the great weather, summer brought our out-of-town members and guests to the post. It sure is good to see our seasonal friends and family year after year.

I also want to thank all our year-round folks who make this place happen in service to our membership and the community. Many don't know that nearly all positions are volunteer positions. That means apart from the Club Manager, all services - cooking, bartending and kitchen cleaning etc. are accomplished by volunteers; so, when you see them running stairs with food or hauling dishes to be washed let them know you appreciate what they do. We couldn't provide what we do for our membership or the community without them!

I'd also like to thank Bill Casey and Joanne Frey for donating those wonderful hanging baskets and maintaining our watering system! 🥰 Year after year Bill carefully designs the baskets and brings them down to us to beautifully adorn our post home. Thanks guys you are awesome!!

There have been so many who have done amazing work 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 their busy lives to contribute in whatever capacity to our post and ultimately for our veterans and our community. Thank you for all you do!



With the onset of July, we are entering the 2023 membership year. Be sure to check your mail for your membership renewal: renew online at legion.org, 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 serve where we can, and we can only do what we do with a strong membership and participation.

THANK YOU



😊 Membership Eligibility 😊

The American Legion believes that membership in the organization should be extended to all U.S. military personnel who served on active duty during all wars and hostile events that are not seen as a "period of war." What that means is if you've served in the military and have an honorable discharge anytime since December 7th 1941 (or are still serving on active duty) you are eligible for membership in the American Legion. Please renew for 2023 and invite others to join; we can only support our fellow veterans from a position of strength and membership is key to that strength!



thank you!

Thank you all who renewed or joined, your support brought us to our 100% goal from the Department of Alaska!



House and Vice Report.....

By Mike Calhoon



Wow, what a month of June we have had. Beautiful weather but we really need some rain. Hope we get both in necessary quantities the rest of the summer.

Please let me know in advance, if possible, if you plan to have a group larger than 6-8 for any of our nightly dinners. This should help us plan and be better prepared to serve our members and their guests.



I want to thank all our members for their continued support of the Post and Club. Your dedication is an inspiration for us all. We have welcomed Connie back to Seward and already put her to work in her "spare time." Great to have her back with the Legion Family. This month, of course, we will be celebrating the 4th of July along with the rest of Seward. We will also host our community breakfast on July 17th. Let us know if you can come help.

The Chamber of Commerce is resurrecting some of the kid's games for the weekend and the Post will be sponsoring the saw dust pile "dig for coins". Cody Gilmore will be running that on July 3rd. Feel free to contact us to help with this event or contact the Chamber.

The 2022 membership year has come to an end and the new 2023 membership year starts, officially, on July 1st. Thank you to all who joined the Post or renewed their membership this year. You all helped the Post reach 112% of the membership goal set forth by the Department of Alaska. Membership is the backbone of your 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.

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



Crazy warm and dry summer so far. It has been beautiful, but we do need some moisture.

I want to thank all Squadron members who continue to volunteer their time and effort in support of the mission of the Post 5 family. June was a very busy month for the Post and help will also be needed in July.

We welcome Al Dykstra back from Denver and look forward to having him here for the summer.



This month the Post's big event, of course, is the 4th of July celebration. Also, the community breakfast will be held on July 17th. There will be ongoing maintenance activity at the



cemetery and around the Post so watch for announcements. If you have time to volunteer during these events, please contact us and we will put you to work.

The 2022 Membership year has come to an end and the Squadron surpassed its 100% goal for membership this year. Thanks to all of you that joined and those who renewed their memberships. The new membership year is coming up and we will let you know when the new cards are available. Remember the dues will remain at \$35.00 for the 2023 year. Membership is the foundation for all the SAL 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 when possible.

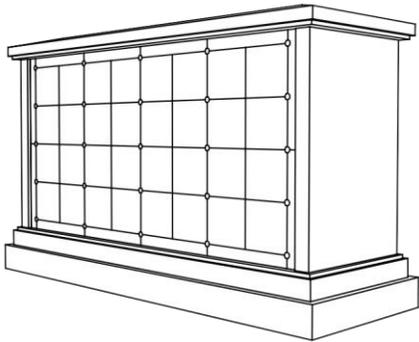


The Post Cemetery Update

Over the years, many of our members have seen, read about, worked at, and helped maintain our cemetery. And, we do have a lovely cemetery for our American Legion members and their family members when called to "Post Everlasting." It is a lot of work, but it is a labor of love to keep the grounds presentable for those interred there, and for our patriotic ceremonies particularly Memorial Day when we come together to honor our fallen.

Over the last few years several of our Post, Auxiliary and Sons members have worked the undeveloped land for our cemetery expansion as we still have quite a bit of land, that if needed, can eventually be used for burials. The land is now settled after all the work they have done in clearing it; and we, over the next few years or so will get it prepared and seeded as we want to continue to beautify it and have it available for proper use.

We have discovered that internment in standard graves for many, is not the preferred way to bury and memorialize a family member. Resultantly, the post has moved forward with purchasing two columbaria as an alternative to the standard full grave burial. Many have asked what columbaria are, and essentially it is a mausoleum for cremated remains (cremains). Columbaria are beautiful structures for the placement of urns in niches that protect the urns and are inscribed with the person's name and information that the family wishes to place on it.



As an organization we want to be responsive to our members' needs and wishes particularly during a time such as the death and burial of a loved one. We are working with the City of Seward and the Pioneers of Alaska and we all will be installing a complementary style of columbaria for each individual cemetery's needs. This effort brings the cemeteries visually together as we are literally right next to one another. The similar styles will add a beautiful flow among our respective cemeteries and ties them together in a common theme.



Double-sided Columbarium

There are many styles and sizes of columbaria and as you would expect the cost can widely vary based on need and style appropriate to the cemetery. And, as many of you know we do not charge a fee for internment in the American Legion Cemetery however, columbaria are expensive as they are engineered for a cemetery's particular needs, expertly and beautifully made of materials such as granite and marble and have niches (to hold the urn) that protect and preserve all the cremains as a fitting memorial for the deceased.

We have written grants and accomplished fundraising to obtain sufficient funds to purchase two columbaria that will serve the needs of our veterans and their families for years to come. We also have been fortunate to have received a substantial grant in the past year from the Division of Veterans Affairs that will substantially cover all the costs for purchase and installation of the columbaria. These funds will allow us to have a suitable place for post members and their families who are called to "Post Everlasting."



The status of our order from the manufacturer is that the columbaria are enroute to Seward. They are being barged up and we will eventually let folks know when they get here. We will be looking at the best way to move them to the cemetery and have them placed on a designed cement base.

My intent was to inform you on one of our larger projects that we feel is important for you to know and if you're in a position to contribute to this effort or donate please do as we are working on this for all of us in our American Legion Family.

Thanks,

Sully

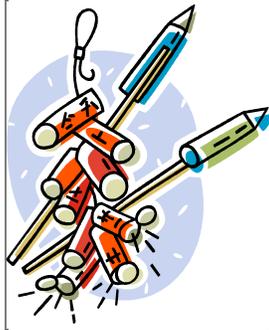


Fourth of July Facts

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.

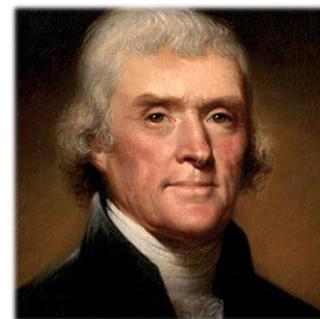
Despite these changes, colonial leaders hoped to reconcile with the British Government, and all but the most radical members of Congress were unwilling to declare independence. However, in late 1775, Benjamin Franklin, then a member of the Secret Committee of Correspondence, hinted to French agents and 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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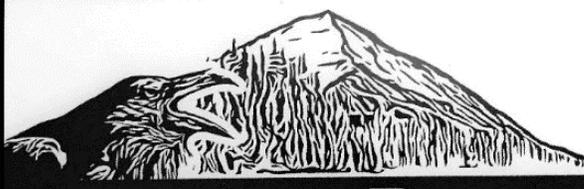
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"If it has a key, we have a policy to fit it!"

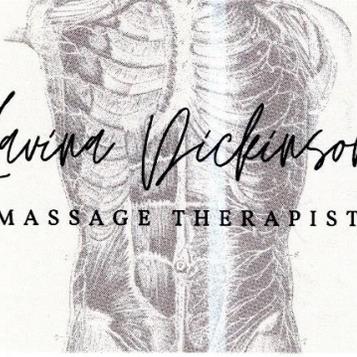
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VA Approved Provider

July 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Steak Night	1
3	Independence Day	Mexican Martes	6	B, B, M&C	Steak Night	9
<p><u>Luscious Leftovers</u></p> <p>Kid's Sawdust Pile Coin Hunt 11:00 am</p>	 <p>Happy 4th of July</p> <p>BBQ Ribs</p>			<p>ALR Meeting 5:30pm</p>  <p>Pioneers of Alaska Igloo #9 Meeting 6:30pm</p>		
10	11	Mexican Martes	13	B, B, M&C	Steak Night	16
<p><u>Luscious Leftovers</u></p>	<p>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</p>  <p>Chili Dogs</p> 	<p>Post Meeting 5:30pm</p> 	<p>Auxiliary Meeting 6:00pm</p> 	<p>SAL Meeting 7:00pm</p> 		
17	18	Mexican Martes	20	B, B, M&C	Steak Night	23
<p style="background-color: #00ff00; color: white; padding: 2px;">3rd Sunday of the Month Breakfast</p>  <p><u>Luscious Leftovers</u></p>	<p>Chili Dogs</p>  <p>BINGO!!!! 6:30PM</p> 					
24	25	Mexican Martes	27	B, B, M&C	Steak Night	30
<p><u>Luscious Leftovers</u></p>	<p>BINGO!!! 6:30PM</p>  <p>Chili Dogs</p> 			<p>SOULMATES</p> 		
31						



HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!
UNITED STATES



Food Every Night at the Post!!!

CELEBRATE FREEDOM

Vickie L. Detert (6/28/22)

Celebrate freedom. Watch fireworks fly.

Celebrate liberty. Raise your flags high.

*Celebrate people who dreamt of a land
where everyone's equal, woman, child or man.*

Celebrate blessings you're given each day.

Thank God for sunshine and also for rain.

*Remember the lives lost that others might know
a country that cherishes freedom and home.*

Celebrate family and friends you hold dear.

Celebrate living every day, every year.

Celebrate sharing, helping others in need.

Celebrate independence while you pray for world peace.

