Commander's Comments
By Clare Sullivan

Wow! What a couple of busy months we've had. Between all the prep for the convention, the convention and then rolling into May we have been slammed! I want to thank all who have stepped up to help. We've had some new volunteers who have been helping out, which I am thrilled at as we have a tendency to rely on the few who are consistently here helping out; you new folks are refreshing while at the same time your effort helps give the "veterans" a break. Thank you so much!

May is generally one of busiest in the year, where we had several activities in support of our veterans and our community. I'd like to thank everyone who helped in all our events including: Armed Forces Day and the Harbor Opening weekend, ALR Bike Blessing, the cemetery clean up, Mother's Day Breakfast, Third Sunday of the Month Breakfast, scholarship awards presentation at Seward High School, the Captains' Dinner, Combat Fishing Tournament support, and of course our Memorial Day Ceremonies and luncheon here at the post.

Our American Legion Family with our fabulous cub scouts accomplished a lot over the Memorial Day Weekend that helped to honor our military, honor and remember our departed fallen heroes. Your actions speak volumes as to your character and your commitment to this community and our veterans. It is so appreciated and although we do not get a lot of fanfare or publicity for our activities; we do all with the right motivation and incredible dedication because we all know and care about our mission of supporting and helping others. I have to admit, it is sometimes a bit demanding on all of us with all our busy schedules, but with lots of good folks who continually step up to the plate, it makes it easier on everyone! I thank you all; your selfless service makes the difference for our American Legion and for many in this town.
I’d also like to give a special thanks to the commander of the USCGC Mustang, Matt Brinkley and his wife Rebecca and of course the outstanding Mustang crew. They are and have been an incredible part of our American Legion Family. Whenever we had functions - large or small, whether it was a celebration, parade, observing the passing of a veteran in our community and providing dignified military honors at the memorial service, the crew of the Mustang was there to help. Thank you so very much, you have been and are a huge part of Post #5, and so very appreciated!

Flag Day, like our other important patriotic holidays, is necessary to preserve our significant history and to educate and keep traditions alive. Observing Flag Day not just honors a great flag but it also reminds us of where we have been as a young country fighting for our freedom, and the incredible journey we have travelled to be the great nation that we are now. The road to where we are has been paved with bravery and the blood of those who found it worthwhile to keep pursuing our ideals of freedom and justice. As life’s events compete for our attention, these patriotic holidays frequently get shelved or receive token attention. Sometimes the overt demonstration to display patriotism is met with a bit of resistance or hesitancy simply because the observances have taken the backseat to other activities surrounding the day. With that said, we have the obligation as members of the American Legion Family to keep these traditions alive and inspire others by our actions of our love of country.

Please consider reading up on our patriotic holidays, particularly Flag Day for this month and fly the flag. We have a great country and all our patriotic holidays are so very important to us as a nation and a free people.
House and Vice Report...
By Mike Calhoon

Hello from the Second Vice/Club,

I hope everyone is taking advantage of the great weather we have been having. It has been a beautiful start to the summer season.

May, as usual, was definitely the busiest month for the Post 5 family! We all made it through Mother’s Day, Armed Forces Day, our community breakfast, Combat Fishing including the Captain’s Dinner, and Memorial Day. Everybody did a great job with all the events and I want to extend my sincere “Thank You” to all the great volunteers that helped us make each of these events a success!

June will seem a bit tamer in comparison to May but things are definitely picking up at the Club as more of our summer folks arrive in Seward. We will be celebrating Flag Day on Sunday June 14th and Father’s Day breakfast on Sunday June 21st. We will also be looking into summer fix up and maintenance projects and will keep you all posted on those as we get to them. If you have some spare time and want to volunteer around the Post just let us know and we will find ways of keeping you busy.

The new membership year is only a month away. If you have not renewed your dues for 2015 please consider doing so. Your continued membership gives additional strength to the Legion goals and programs locally, statewide, and nationally. Help us keep a strong voice for veteran’s rights and benefits going in Juneau and Washington D.C.

Thanks to all of you who continue to support your Post and Club. I 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.

Summer has arrived in a big way. What great weather so far! Hope the rest of the summer follows suit.

First I would like to congratulate Squadron 5 for exceeding their membership goal for 2015. With a growing membership we can continue to provide the assistance and support both the Post and the community of Seward need.

There will be lots to do with building maintenance, cemetery maintenance, Flag Day and Father’s Day all happening this month. Let’s continue to provide the strong support for the Post that has become our trademark. The SAL is very involved in all the Post 5 FSamily functions and activities and we need to keep that going.

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.
Notes from the President...
By Nancy Perea

Greetings from Auxiliary Unit 5!

May few by fast, with so many events keeping us busy. May 16th was Military Appreciation at the Harbor, May 19th was the Captains’ Dinner and May 20th was not only the Seward High School graduation ceremony, but also Combat fishing. Many volunteers showed up each of these events to support our military men and women.

There was a wonderful turnout for the Memorial service on May 25th. The rain stopped and the sun peeked through, giving a calm serenity at our graveside service. This was my most memorable Memorial Day ever. In the past, Memorial Day weekend was when we went to visit out of town family because we had a three-day weekend. This year I saw a Facebook post that will forever change my outlook. It said, "For those of you who thought this long weekend was about the barbeques..." and showed a picture of a young boy at the gravesite of his father. I saw myself in that post and felt ashamed. I knew I that I needed to be part of the ceremony, not only because I am the Unit President, but because I owed it to our service men and women who died for our freedom. They deserve this day, not me.

My part in the ceremony was to read a story about the poppy and how it became to be a national symbol. I never knew what it meant. I knew that it was a fundraiser to assist the Veteran’s, but until this day, I didn’t know the true meaning.

In case you didn’t know, distributing the Memorial Day Poppy is one of the longest traditions in the American Legion Auxiliary. The poppies survived in the fields where many men and women died. It’s color red, is for the blood shed during these battles. Wearing one is a reminder of the past sacrifices and continuing needs of our veterans and to honor the men and women who served and died for their country in all wars, past, present and future.

I was lucky to have been part of that tradition this year. As we closed our ceremony with a 3 gun salute, Taps began playing and tears ran down my face. I felt ashamed, proud, sad and honored all at the same time. I will never again look at this day the same.

At the seaside service, we had some out of town visitors that were there when we arrived. I asked them if they were needing poppies and they said no, they were from Pennsylvania just checking things out. I turned to walk away when something told me that they should have a poppy anyway. I gave them each a poppy and invited them to stay for the ceremony. After the Poppy story, the gentleman approached me with a tear in his eye and handed me a $100 bill, thanking me for our support of the Military and hoping that his contribution would go far. They too walked away with a newfound respect for Memorial Day.

June 14th is Flag Day, followed by Father’s Day on the 21st. I will say a special prayer on Father’s Day for the mothers who lost their husbands and for the children who go to celebrate this day at their grave sites. I think about my son Carlos who is in Japan with the Air Force. He will become a father for the first time in July. I will pray for him, that he stays safe and makes it home along with his comrades.

We are the lucky ones. Please keep our Military men and women in your thoughts and prayers.

For God and Country!
Flag Day Celebrated

June 14, 1777

Flag Day! On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation establishing a national Flag Day on June 14. Many Americans celebrate Flag Day by displaying the Red, White and Blue in front of homes and businesses. The day commemorates the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the official flag of the United States.

On June 14, 1777, John Adams spoke about the flag at a meeting of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia. He said, "Resolved, that the flag of the thirteen United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white on a blue field, representing a new constellation." There have been twenty-seven official versions of the flag so far; stars have been added to it as states have entered the Union. The current version dates to July 4, 1960, when Hawaii became the 50th state.

Many Americans sing, pledge, and pay respect to the flag, "Old Glory," as a symbol of the country’s democracy and independence. Saluting the flag is a way to celebrate and honor the United States of America.

According to American legend, in June 1776, George Washington commissioned Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia seamstress, to create a flag for the new nation in anticipation of a declaration of its independence.
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**Food Every Night!**